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No. 520.

Miscellaneous Series.

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPORTS.

FRENCH COLONIES.









1

FRANCE.

**F R E N C H   C O L O N I E S .**

4th Bnd - 1st Lt. J. E.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,  
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*Report on French Colonies by Mr. Austin Lee.*

(Received at Foreign Office, December 1, 1899.)

The expansion which has taken place in its Colonial Introductory remarks.  
 Empire is, perhaps, one of the most notable features of the recent history of France. The historical view of this expansion does not enter into the scheme of a report destined to deal, as far as possible, with the present economic situation of most of the French possessions and their relations in this respect with the United Kingdom. It may, however, be briefly stated that before the Franco-German war, though a nominal suzerainty existed over some of the colonies of to-day, those actually under French rule were:—The French West Indies, French Guiana, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Senegal and certain factories and towns together with somewhat ill-defined spheres of influence, and the port of Obock in Africa, the French Possessions in India and Cambodia in Asia, and New Caledonia with a few scattered islands in Oceania. Algeria is excluded as it practically forms an integral part of the French State.

It is almost impossible to state precisely what were the area Area and population.  
 and population in 1870–71 of the territories under French control. In the report on the 1897 Colonial Budget the former was estimated at 2,981,900 square kiloms., whilst the latter was reckoned at 32,083,273 inhabitants. Nevertheless these figures can probably only be regarded as approximative.

The Report on the 1897 Budget for the Chamber of Deputies Political and administrative divisions.  
 divides the French colonies both politically and administratively into three distinct groups as follows:—

I. Colonies under the “*Senatus Consultum*” of 1866, viz.:—Martinique, Guadaloupe, and Réunion.

These three colonies date back to an earlier period of French colonisation. They are each represented in the Senate and Chamber respectively by one Senator and two Deputies. A considerable party favours their complete assimilation and absorption, similarly to what has taken place in the case of Algeria. Local opinion does not, however, appear to be quite unanimous on the subject.

II. Colonies under the régime of Decrees, viz.:—Senegal, French  
 (475) A 2



Guiana, French Possessions in India, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Cochin-China, New Caledonia, Tahiti.

Of these the French possessions in India are represented in the Parliament of the mother country by a Senator and a Deputy, whilst Senegal, French Guiana, and Cochin-China each send a single Deputy. The remainder are represented in the "Conseil Supérieur des Colonies," a body which includes, besides the delegates of the colonies, a number of official and other notabilities connected with the colonies administratively or otherwise.

III. Protectorates and colonies under French suzerainty, viz. :— French Sudan, French Guinea, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, French Congo, French Somaliland, Mayotte, Madagascar, Tonkin, Cambodia.

A certain number of these are also represented in the "Conseil Supérieur des Colonies," but others are still to a greater or less extent under military rule.\*

Local self-government.

Though nothing in any way approaching actual autonomy has until now existed in the organisation of any French colony, all, with the exception of a few in the third category, possess a share of local self-government under the restrictive influence of the Ministry of Colonies and the Governor-General, Governor or Lieutenant-Governor. These local powers vary according to the case, and appear to be organised somewhat on the same principles as those followed in the organisation of French departments.

Central administration.

With regard to the central administration it may be remarked that it has passed through a number of different phases. Up to 1858 it formed a department in the Ministry of Marine, in which—year a separate and distinct "Department of Algeria and the Colonies" was organised. In 1860 the administration again came under the Ministry of Marine. In 1881 it was attached to the Ministry of Commerce in the form of an Under-Secretaryship of State. In 1882 it was again re-transferred to the Ministry of Marine. From that period until 1889, with the exception of two short intervals in 1882–83 and 1885–86 when it was confided to "Directors," it remained in the hands of an Under-Secretary of State attached to the Ministry of Marine. In 1889 the colonial administration was transferred to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. For a few months in 1893 it once more returned to the Ministry of Marine, and finally in 1894 it was organised as a distinct Ministry.

Centralisation.

The policy of centralisation, which has been perhaps a rather marked feature in French governmental methods, seems up to the present to have been carried to a high pitch as regards the colonies. Monsieur Jules Siegfried, the author of the report for the Chamber of Deputies of the Committee charged with the examination of the colonial estimates for 1897, remarked that the number of officials at the Ministry of Colonies was 231 (costing 820,000 fr.), as against 79 (costing 902,000 fr.) at the British Colonial Office.

\* Madagascar has, as shown hereafter, been declared French territory, and the Sudan entirely re-distributed.

This great difference as regards numbers is, of course, due to the fact that the Ministry of Colonies is obliged to deal with a far greater variety of subjects than our own Colonial Office, but M. Siegfried pointed out that the former is inclined to retain in its own hands a quantity of minor matters which, in his opinion, might with advantage be left to the discretion of the local authorities. A further point upon which he laid a good deal of stress was the question of the "Service Central des Marchés," which makes all purchases for account of the colonies. This he characterised not only as excessive, but as expensive centralisation, the cost of the goods purchased being augmented by about 6 per cent. in consequence of the methods adopted. His opinion seems to have been borne out by the action of subsequent Committees which have gradually reduced the Vote for this purpose.

A useful institution denominated the "Office Colonial" was organised at the beginning of the present year for supplying information on all subjects relating to the colonies. This establishment, which, though under, is practically distinct from the Ministry of Colonies, serves as an Emigrants' Information office and as a permanent sample Museum both of colonial products and of home manufactures suitable for exportation to the various colonies. It also possesses a library of works of reference, to which the public have access, and publishes an official journal dealing with colonial matters.

As may be supposed, the acquisition of such vast territories as those now under French dominion has not been accomplished without very serious financial sacrifices.

Broadly speaking the general annual estimates of the Ministry of Colonies have until now been intended to cover the colonial military expenditure\* and the so-called "expenses of sovereignty." These include mainly the expenditure on the salaries of governors, on the administration of justice, on religion, and on the Treasury service, though a considerable part of the cost of the last three is borne by the local budgets. Further the home Government intervenes in local financial matters by granting subsidies where the local revenue is insufficient to meet the expenditure. Though the colonial military expenditure has formed the chief item of late years in these estimates a certain proportion seems not to be included in the annual Colonial Budget, but in those of the Ministries of War and Marine. It is, consequently, impossible to arrive at the actual annual expenditure under this head. As an instance, however, it may be mentioned that the expenditure of these two Ministries on behalf of Madagascar from the end of 1894 up to the end of 1896 amounted to over 3,500,000*l.* sterling. The total expenditure on the Conquest of the Island,

\* In the Ivory Coast, French Congo, Dahomey and Madagascar there exist bodies of local militia, the cost of which appears in the various local budgets. Except in the last case, these troops appear to perform functions akin to those of police.

the maintenance of French supremacy, &c., may probably be taken at nearly 7,000,000*l.* sterling.

Total  
expenditure,  
1890-99.

The following table shows the total annual amounts (under the head of "Colonial Budget") expended by the various departments which have administered the colonies during the last nine years, together with the amount voted for the present year:—

FRENCH Colonial Expenditure,\* 1890-99.

Year.						Amount.
						£
1890	..	..	..	..	..	2,338,540
1891	..	..	..	..	..	2,843,627
1892	..	..	..	..	..	3,423,112
1893	..	..	..	..	..	3,221,630
1894	..	..	..	..	..	3,413,940
1895	..	..	..	..	..	3,434,414
1896	..	..	..	..	..	3,117,052
1897	..	..	..	..	..	3,629,051
1898	..	..	..	..	..	3,866,065†
1899‡	..	..	..	..	..	3,595,832§
Total .. .. .						32,882,263

\* The exchange here, as throughout, is taken at 25 fr. 25 c. to the *l.*

† Approximate.

‡ The estimates for 1900 amount to 3,555,178*l.*

§ The expenditure on penal settlements in these estimates stands at 360,518*l.* During the preceding nine years the cost of these establishments was, probably, slightly higher.

The above amounts do not include either postal subsidies or those granted to lines of steamers for calls, such expenditure not appearing in the Colonial Budget.

Average  
expenditure.

The average expenditure is about 3,200,000*l.* sterling per annum. During practically the whole period the military expenses absorb a great part of the sums voted, indeed, in the vote for 1899 they are responsible for rather more than two-thirds of the whole. It may be noted that these annual votes do not include the special expenditure for colonial purposes of the Ministries of War and Marine on the Madagascar and other expeditions, which would doubtless bring the average up to a considerably higher figure.||

Revenue from  
colonies.

The credit side of the account shows receipts, under various heads, from the colonies which, in round numbers, may be taken at a total of about 2,500,000*l.* sterling during the decade under consideration. These receipts in most cases take the form of contributions, on the part of the individual colonies, towards the military and other expenditure of the mother country. The policy which dictates the payment of these sums is severely condemned by the author of the Report on the Colonial Budget for the present year. He maintains that even if the charges were raised to a much higher figure than that at which they at present stand, so as to cover the whole of the home expenditure purely for the benefit of the colonies, the system on which they rest would still be a bad one. He bases this

|| For further information on this point see Appendix.

view on the fact that the colonists would be unable to control the expenditure of the sums which they have paid, whilst the French public would find it impossible to trace the gradual diminution of the estimates to its true cause.

For the future, however, these annual receipts will fall off very considerably. This diminution will be consequent upon the transfer to the General Budget of Indo-China, which will henceforth bear the whole cost of the local native troops amounting to nearly 180,000*l.* sterling, formerly paid by Cochin-China, and to the reforms mentioned below.

Future  
diminution of  
receipts.

As will be observed from the above table, the estimates for 1899 show a considerable decrease as compared with the total expenditure during 1898. Part of this diminution is naturally attributable to the circumstances mentioned with regard to Indo-China. It remains, however, to be seen whether, in view of past experience, the sum voted for the current year will be sufficient. The writer of the report on the Budget admits that the falling-off is more apparent than real, and unofficial writers, whilst enquiring when the continuous and heavy expenditure will cease, seem to view such a possibility, as far as the immediate future is concerned, in rather a sceptical spirit.

Whilst the home expenditure undoubtedly forms a somewhat heavy charge, the local administrative expenses seem, in many cases, to be proportionately even heavier. The local estimates for 1898 are, throughout the individual notices of most of the colonies which follow, given in the text. It may, however, be remarked that over and above the expenditure of each colony as a whole, further considerable sums are often laid out by its component "arrondissements" and "communes."

Local  
expenditure.

On January 30 of the present year a Committee was appointed to enquire into the financial and budgetary conditions obtaining in French colonies. Its report was published on July 28, in the "Journal Officiel."

Report of the  
Local Budget  
Committee.

The main object of the Committee was to arrive at a feasible plan, by which the so-called "expenses of sovereignty" might be transferred from the national to the individual Local Budgets.

The general drift of the report is towards the substitution of the principle of greater local responsibility and, within certain bounds, of greater local autonomy, for the idea of assimilation which, until now, has played a foremost part in French colonial policy. The Committee reviews the general situation as regards financial and fiscal matters. It points out that the total revenue of all the colonies is equivalent to a per capita tax of 3 fr. 55 c. on the whole colonial population, whilst the taxation in the mother country, exclusive of departmental and communal rates, amounts to 90 fr. per head; further, that of the whole cost of the colonies, no less than 44 per cent. is borne by the French taxpayer. No little stress is laid upon the local administrative expenses, which attain 1 fr. 13 c., whilst those in the mother country only reach 23 c. per head of the population. It is remarked "that the

Reforms  
recom-  
mended.

resources of our colonies are not judiciously utilised, that the unproductive expenses are the most numerous." The administrations of Justice, the Treasury Service, Public Instruction, the Post Office, Customs, &c., are cited as cases in point.

The reforms\* proposed by the Committee are embodied in three recommendations. The last two may be said to be more or less of the nature of ordinances intended to facilitate the carrying out of the first, which runs as follows:—

"All the civil and police expenditure is in principle supported by the Local Budgets of the colonies. Subsidies may be granted to the colonies from the Home Budget. Contributions may be levied from each colony up to the amount of its military expenditure."

It is proposed to allow the military expenditure to remain provisionally chargeable on the Home Budget, and for various reasons the studies of the Committee were confined to 10 colonies, which in turn were sub-divided into two distinct groups:—

I. Colonies in which the proposed reforms can be introduced immediately: Senegal, French Guiana, Réunion.

II. Colonies in which they can be effected in the nearer or more distant future: Mayotte, French Possessions in India, Martinique, Guadeloupe, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Tahiti, New Caledonia.

The total amount from which the Home Colonial Budget could be relieved under the new rule is 395,080*l.*, but for nine out of these ten colonies (French India, owing to special circumstances, being excepted from the calculation), the economy to be realised reaches the sum of 193,222*l.* Against this, however, must be set, firstly, the subsidies to be granted, amounting to 121,782*l.*, and the contributions of the colonies towards the home military and civil expenditure valued at 26,704*l.*, which are to be discontinued. These two amounts give a total of 148,486*l.*, thus reducing the net economy to 44,736*l.* It must, however, be borne in mind that the subsidies, which will be granted with a view to assisting the colonies to meet the new sources of local expenditure, will be gradually decreased until each colony, as far as local matters are concerned, is practically self-supporting.

The final paragraph, as showing the spirit which governed the Committee in its labours, may be quoted in extenso:—

"The reform, of which we have indicated the essential details, is modest. It is not, nevertheless, without importance in that it indicates the abandonment of the old official methods, and the adhesion to the doctrine of autonomy. The colonies will, perhaps, only see the financial side, and the increased expenditure which it will occasion. But their patriotism will not refuse to take an equitable share in the charges which weigh upon the mother country. They will find in the new legislation an encouragement to develop their individuality and consolidate their finances. When, by their administrative wisdom and their financial adroit-

\* These reforms have been approved by the 1900 Budget Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. They will, however, only come into force on January 1, 1901.

ness, they have shown themselves capable of living under a less strict control, the Government of the Republic will, of itself, know how to relax its guardianship and facilitate the full development of local liberties."

By the Decree of November 20, 1882, it was ordained that a reserve fund should be formed in the various colonies from, in each case, the eventual annual surplus of local revenue. These funds can only be drawn upon for extraordinary expenditure caused by unforeseen events, or to cover an actual deficit in the local budget.

The following table shows the maximum amount to be attained by the reserve fund of each colony, and the sums at present in hand according to the Report for the Chamber of Deputies on the French Colonial Budget for 1900:—

Colonies.	Maximum of Reserve Fund.	Present Amount in Hand.
	Francs.	Francs.
Martinique .. ..	1,500,000	447,154
Guadeloupe .. ..	1,500,000	80,048
Réunion .. ..	1,500,000	491,095
French Guiana .. ..	1,000,000	1,127,649
Senegal .. ..	1,300,000	1,300,000
Gaboon .. ..	500,000	..
St. Pierre and Miquelon ..	400,000	117,454
Tahiti .. ..	400,000	97,230
New Caledonia .. ..	400,000	449
French possessions in India ..	1,000,000	190,265
Cochin-China .. ..	9,000,000	..
French Sudan .. ..	..	..
French Guinea .. ..	..	400,000
Ivory Coast .. ..	..	200,000
Dahomey .. ..	..	..
French Congo .. ..	..	317,163
Cambodia .. ..	..	2,446,538
Annam .. ..	..	211,469
Tonkin .. ..	..	300,000
Madagascar .. ..	..	1,103,290

A rather interesting point with regard to the fiscal arrangements in French colonies is found in the "octroi de mer." As a general rule the land tax cannot be said to exist. Prior to the liberation of the slaves in 1848, the landholders in the older colonies were subject to a *per capita* tax on the number of slaves owned. This was replaced by the system of export dues on colonial products, which still exists. In many cases, however, such duties do not enable individual municipalities and communes to cover their expenditure. With a view to making good the deficit, the right on the part of the local authorities to levy the so-called "octroi de mer" was instituted in different colonies at different periods. It is a tax applicable both to imports and to local\* pro-

\* Decision of the "Conseil d'Etat," July 3, 1894. See "Organisation des Colonies Françaises" (Petit), Vol. II., pp. 582-54.

ducts. The classes of goods taxed and the amount levied thereon vary greatly in the different colonies. The essential feature is, however, that since it is a purely local tax, raised for municipal and communal purposes only, it has no preferential effect in favour of the mother country's productions.

Capital for  
public works.

Whilst speaking of financial and kindred matters, it may perhaps be well to mention that the question of capital is one of the greatest difficulties with which French colonies have to cope. In fact it seems to be almost impossible for them to obtain the funds needed for various public works, such as roads, railways, ports, &c., which are absolutely necessary for the development of the natural wealth which many amongst them undoubtedly possess. Capital is said to be plentiful in France, but the confidence of the lending public does not, as yet, appear to have extended itself to undertakings in these trans-oceanic possessions. The guarantee of the home Government for loans of this description is, as a general rule, looked upon as a *sine qua non*, and this naturally is not always forthcoming, whilst in certain cases, where it has been granted to private companies carrying out public works on a large scale, the results have been anything but satisfactory. The French Government rarely undertakes public works on its own account in the colonies, it being understood that only those of general utility, in contradistinction to those for the benefit of a single colony, form part of its province. These two facts may perhaps be viewed as an unfortunate, though most natural, hindrance to the progress of some of the richest territories.

Scarcity of  
colonists and  
of labour.

The question of colonisation is difficult to handle by reason of the many essential differences which exist amongst the component parts of so large a dominion. A more or less acute labour question seems to reign in the majority of French colonies. Native labour, where available, is not always satisfactory. On the other hand, in only three colonies, for climatic reasons, can European colonisation in the sense of settling be regarded as possible. New Caledonia, the highlands of Madagascar, and Tahiti offer certain attractions in this respect, though the former is by far the best adapted to the purpose. The larger portion of the French colonial empire is, therefore, susceptible of commercial rather than strictly colonial development by the introduction of a permanent white population. A writer in the "Journal des Chambres de Commerce" criticises the action of the Colonial Budget Committee of the Chamber in reducing this year the vote for the assisted emigration of labourers from 75,000 to 70,000 fr. He asserts that practically nothing is done by the Home Government towards the peopling of French colonies by French citizens.

Vote for  
assisted  
emigration.

Emigration,  
1894-96.

It is, however, only just to observe that a recent number of the "Revue de la Statistique" shows that during the years 1894, 1895, and 1896 the total annual number of emigrants from France was only 5,000. This extremely small figure serves to bear out the impression conveyed by certain passages in M. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu's remarkable work, "La Colonisation chez les Peuples

Modernes." From various remarks which he makes it may be gathered that the French, whilst most intrepid as explorers, &c., do not, as a rule, possess the peculiar bent of mind which would lead them to cross the seas with a view to permanent residence abroad. The causes of this more or less national characteristic lie far too deep to be discussed in a few lines, but they are of such a nature as to justify the supposition that the populating of those portions of the colonial empire which are suited to European immigration is likely to progress slowly.

As regards commercial relations, the basis of the idea of development which the most important section of those interested in colonial affairs have formed, appears to be that the colonies should, as far as possible, provide the mother country with those commodities which she cannot produce, whilst reserving to her the monopoly of their markets for manufactured goods. If the protectionist principles now held in France be borne in mind, the desire to exclude foreign manufactures is not unnatural. Nevertheless, as local enterprise, here and there, begins to show itself, the theory is pushed yet further. M. Jules Meline, in a speech made at the annual meeting of the "Association de l'Industrie et de l'Agriculture françaises," sounded a serious note of warning on the subject. After speaking of the difficulty of finding an adequate solution, he gave his views in the following words: "I see only one means of accomplishing it, which would be to impose upon industrial undertakings which may attempt to establish themselves in our colonies a tax sufficient to re-establish the equality in production between them and the French establishments in the mother country." His words have found their echo in a number of publications in the form of more or less distinct demands for repressive measures against any industries in French possessions which would interfere with French exports thereto.

Commercial relations.

French monopoly desired.

Proposed taxation of local industries.

As an annex to the general report on the 1896 Budget for the Chamber of Deputies an interesting and exhaustive report, dealing with the economic situation of French colonies, was published in 1895.

This work showed that the general state of trade in the colonies was then by no means favourable to French commerce; to quote verbatim: "A market worth 95,000,000 fr. costs us 80,000,000 fr. a year; foreign countries have a market worth 126,000,000 fr. without loosening their purse-strings." In view of these circumstances the author of the report advocated further tariff legislation, a course which, in many cases, has been pursued. In addition, however, to proposing this action on the part of the State, he remarked that the general run of French merchandise was not suited to the colonial market—especially as regarded the West African possessions—cheapness rather than finish being the chief requisite. Producers, he emphasised, must learn to accommodate themselves to the tastes of consumers. How far this frequently reiterated advice has been followed it is impossible to ascertain accurately. The latest fairly complete trade statistics, those for 1897, are quoted in the text below, and are included, together

Economic situation, 1895.



with those for other years, in Tables I and II. From them it would appear that the injunction has produced a certain amount of effect.

Value of  
imports, 1888  
and 1897.

The total value of imports into French colonies, exclusive, of course, of Algeria and Tunis, in 1888 was 7,837,076*l.*, the proportions attributable to the trade with France and French colonies and to that with foreign countries being respectively 2,880,497*l.* and 4,956,579*l.* In 1897, as far as the figures go, out of a total value of 9,810,216*l.*, the imports from France and other colonies were worth 4,696,172*l.*, and those from foreign countries amounted to 5,114,044*l.* These figures for 1897 do not, however, include the value of imports into French Congo, Mayotte, and the French possessions in India which, in 1896, were collectively worth 95,534*l.* as regards France and French colonies, and 240,381*l.* in respect of other countries. Assuming, therefore, that the imports of these three colonies increased slightly during the year, it will be found that the total figures for 1897 stood, in round numbers, as follows:—

Increased  
importation  
from France.

France and French colonies, 4,792,000*l.*, other countries, 5,355,000*l.*, showing a balance in favour of the latter of 563,000*l.*, as compared to, in 1888, a difference on the same side of 2,076,082*l.* It will also be noted that, during the 10 years the total value of imports from all sources had increased by, approximately, 2,310,000*l.*, the increase being almost entirely in favour of the trade with the mother country since the inter-colonial trade is comparatively small. In considering this important increase it must, however, not be neglected that it is probably due quite as much to expansion and tariff legislation as to development.

Lack of  
official French  
data  
regarding  
British trade  
during same  
period.

It is unfortunate that no official figures exist enabling a similar comparison to be made in the case of imports from the United Kingdom in particular. The only detailed statistics, showing the origin of imports and the classes of goods imported, are those for 1896. Table III serves to show them as a whole, arranged according to the French classification of merchandise, whilst the values of imports from the United Kingdom are individually introduced into the text.

Value of  
exports, 1888  
and 1897.

The total value of exports from French colonies in 1888 was 8,238,776*l.*, divided into: Exports to France and French colonies, 4,134,459*l.*, and to other countries, 4,104,317*l.* In 1897, the value, according to the official figures, was 9,393,044*l.*, the share of France and French colonies standing at 4,115,181*l.*, and that of foreign countries at 5,277,863*l.* In this case, also, the figures for the above-mentioned colonies are missing. Their collective exports in 1896 to France and French colonies were valued at 198,771*l.*, whilst foreign countries received from them merchandise to the value of 308,017*l.* On following the same method as that adopted in the case of imports it will be found the value of exports in 1897 probably stood in round numbers at about 4,314,000*l.* to France and other colonies, and at 5,586,000*l.* to other countries, according to which the latter exceeded the former by the large sum of 1,272,000*l.*

It is also a noticeable fact that the total increase in the value of exports, which amounted to about 1,661,000*l.* during the 10 years, was almost entirely in favour of the trade with foreign countries, that with France and French colonies remaining almost stationary. Increase of exports to foreign countries.

The foregoing remarks with regard to imports from the United Kingdom are equally applicable to exports thereto, for which Table IV shows the corresponding figures.

To sum up, it may be said that the trade of French colonies shows a decided increase on the import side and a somewhat less marked increase on the export side. Further that, owing mainly to the fostering effect of protective tariffs, the imports from the mother country have gained largely, whilst, on the contrary, the exports to France have not progressed to any appreciable extent.

The following table will be found to summarise the trade of French colonies for the years 1888 and 1897 and to show the increase thereof with France and her colonies and with foreign countries respectively:— Summary of French colonial trade.

	France and French Colonies.			Foreign Countries.			Total Increase of Trade.
	1888.	1897.	Increase.	1888.	1897.	Increase.	
Imports ... ..	£ 2,880,497	£ 4,792,000	£ 1,911,503	£ 4,956,579	£ 5,355,000	£ 398,421	£ 2,309,924
Exports ... ..	£ 4,134,458	£ 4,314,000	£ 179,541	£ 4,104,317	£ 5,536,000	£ 1,431,683	£ 1,661,224
Total ... ..	£ 7,014,955	£ 9,106,000	£ 2,091,044	£ 9,060,896	£ 10,941,000	£ 1,880,104	£ 3,971,148

In virtue of the *Senatus Consultum* of 1866, the *Conseils Généraux* of Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Réunion were authorised to legislate individually in the matter of customs tariffs. Customs tariffs. As a consequence of this authorisation, in the course of the five or six succeeding years they embraced free trade principles. This state of affairs lasted from 15 to 18 years, finally giving way to the complaints made by French manufacturers and merchants. At present, French colonies may be divided into two distinct groups as regards the tariff question. To the first belong Martinique, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, St. Pierre and Miquelon, the portion of French Congo known as the Gaboon, Réunion, Mayotte, Madagascar, Indo-China, and New Caledonia. Under the law of January 11, 1892, these colonies are, in general, subject to the ordinary French tariff, though in most cases certain special classes of goods pay special rates or are admitted free of duty. The remaining colonies possess special individual tariffs. Goods of French origin are admitted into the colonies free of customs duty, but are subject to the same local taxes, such as *octroi-de-mer*, &c., as are levied on foreign produce (see Blue Book, Commercial No. 5, 1895). Inter-colonial trade is free for French products or those of French colonies.

It is interesting to note that some amongst the most important colonial exports are not admitted free of duty in France, though they are exceptions to the general rule. Amongst these may be Duties on colonial products imported into France.

included sugar, molasses, coffee, cocoa, tea, certain spices, **vanilla**, &c., which, for the most part appear to pay one-half of the **usual** rate, there being, however, further exceptions to this rule in the case of individual colonies.

Shipping.

The shipping question has lately attracted a good deal of attention; most of the colonial trade, especially the coasting trade, is at present done in foreign bottoms. The reason generally accepted as causing this state of affairs is the number of restrictive laws which hinder the development of the carrying trade in distant seas.

Omission of  
Tunis, Indo-  
China, &c.

In the individual notices of French colonies which follow, Tunis has been excluded, as, being under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it cannot be included in the regular Colonial Empire. The French possessions in India have, though included in the tables, been left out of the body of this report on account of their relatively small importance. The same has been done in the case of St. Pierre and Miquelon, because their importance, from a British point of view, is far more political than economic. Lastly, Indo-China is not included in this Report except as far as the tables are concerned. Though this vast colony is certainly one of the most prosperous, if not absolutely the most prosperous both from a financial and an economic standpoint, its direct commercial relations with the United Kingdom are trifling as compared to the volume of its trade. Out of a total trade movement in 1896 of about 6,728,000*l.*, that with the United Kingdom only amounted to about 148,000*l.*, and it cannot, therefore, be looked upon as possessing the same importance, commercially, for our own country as some other French colonies. Nevertheless it may be remarked here that a large proportion of the trade passes through Hong-Kong and Singapore. This, however, as well as all trade with all foreign countries, will suffer very severely if the scheme of heavily increasing the import duties, which is said to be under consideration, is carried into effect.

Proposed  
tariff  
legislation.

The remaining colonies are divided geographically as follows:—

1. American and West Indian colonies.
2. West African colonies.
3. Colonies in the Indian Ocean and East Africa.
4. Colonies in Oceania.

## I.—AMERICA.

### *Martinique.*

General  
situation.

The general economic crisis which has made itself so severely felt in the West Indies has not left Martinique untouched, though the situation of the island is said, on the whole, to be slightly better than that of many of its neighbours.

Influence of  
sugar crisis.

It is perhaps scarcely necessary to state that the main cause of its decline in prosperity is attributed to the sugar question. There are, however, two other factors which deserve to be noticed. The first, a direct consequence of the depreciation of the staple product, is the somewhat unfortunate situation of the land-holders in

**general.** The introduction of new forms of agriculture, destined to replace the sugar cane culture, has been widely advocated and to a certain extent carried out. That such a course has not been more universally adopted is generally attributed to the indolence of the land-holding classes; it would, nevertheless, appear not improbable that it is due quite as much to the want of capital as to the lack of energy.

The second factor is found in the race question. The feud <sup>Race question.</sup> between black and white rests not merely upon the traditional hatred of the past, that of slave for slave-owner, but upon the social hatred of the poor for the rich. Thus, in view of the preponderance of the coloured element, the task of the French governor is sometimes difficult. The island being one of the oldest French colonies is amongst the most closely assimilated to the mother country. <sup>Elections.</sup> With universal suffrage the descendants of former slaves are able to exercise great influence at the elections of the senator and two deputies which the colony sends to France, and at those of the various local bodies.

The population of Martinique is estimated at about 180,000, <sup>Population and area.</sup> whilst its area is 390 square miles. The town of St. Pierre is the commercial centre. Fort-de-France, the seat of government, possesses an exceptionally fine harbour and dry-docks.

The regulations with regard to grants of Government land are <sup>Grants of land.</sup> peculiar to the island. According to a local ordinance of 1877 these grants are made, in parcels of not more than about 15 acres, for 10 years conditionally upon only secondary crops being cultivated to the exclusion of indigenous roots and vegetables. They are revocable at any time during the 10 years should the authorities not be satisfied with the use made of the land. At the end of that period the grantee has the priority in leasing the land which he has occupied.

For the purposes of government the island is divided into two <sup>Administrative divisions.</sup> "arrondissements," nine "cantons," and thirty-two "communes." The staff of civil functionaries of all descriptions numbers 973, <sup>Number of officials.</sup> amongst whom 39 hold strictly administrative posts. According to the latest figures the number of troops is 738.

The local budget for 1898 placed the total ordinary expenditure at 189,789*l*. This included, firstly, a fixed charge of 3,170*l*. <sup>Local expenditure.</sup> paid to the State for the benefit of the "Invalides," secondly, the quota of the colony in the civil and military expenditure of the home government amounting to 2,554*l*. This local estimate is, however, far from balancing the total expenditure, since the colony appears in the French colonial budget for 1899 for a sum of 102,251*l*. <sup>Colonial budget expenditure.</sup> Therefore, assuming the local ordinary expenditure to be the same for 1899 as for 1898 and deducting the two items mentioned above, the net home and local expenditure on the colony would appear to be, in round numbers, 286,000*l*., of which the mother country bears over 35 per cent.

The imports into Martinique in 1888 were valued at 907,581*l*., <sup>Value of imports, 1888 and 1897.</sup> of which 341,518*l*. were of French and colonial origin and 566,063*l*. from foreign countries. In 1897 the figures were:—

imports from France and French colonies, 434,180*l.*; from foreign countries, 416,862*l.*; total, 851,042*l.*, or a decrease in 10 years of 56,539*l.* It will, however, be observed that the imports from the mother country show a material advance of 92,662*l.*, whilst those from foreign countries have fallen off by 149,201*l.*

Value of  
imports from  
the United  
Kingdom,  
1896.  
Value of  
principal  
imports, 1896.

In 1896, the only year for which detailed official statistics are available, the imports from the United Kingdom were valued at 85,473*l.* The principal articles imported were coal, 21,832*l.*, and chemicals, 51,783*l.* Wines and spirits came almost entirely from France, her proportion being 60,852*l.*, out of a total of 64,745*l.* The trade in salted and dried fish was exclusively carried on with France and her colonies, *i.e.*, 48,894*l.* out of 49,736*l.* The importation of textiles amounted to about 84,000*l.*, and of this over 64,000*l.* was attributed to the trade with France. In the import trade the United States held the first place amongst foreign countries, providing some seven-twelfths of the foreign goods imported.

Exports,  
1888 and  
1897.

The exports for 1888 amounted to 928,906*l.*, of which 885,350*l.* were to France and French colonies, and only 43,556*l.* to foreign countries. In 1897 the figures were respectively:—765,013*l.*, 719,592*l.*, and 45,421*l.*, which represents a total decrease of 163,893*l.*, but a small increase in the trade with foreign countries. These figures include the value of imports re-exported.

Values of  
exportation  
of colonial  
products,  
1896.

The exportation of purely colonial products is found in the statistics for 1896. The trade with foreign countries is quite insignificant. Sugar stands at the head of exports to France and French colonies, its value for the year being 449,318*l.* Spirits (rum, &c.) rank next at 215,722*l.*, whilst cocoa occupies the third place with a value of 19,762*l.* A few minor exports bring the total up to 698,674*l.*

Quantities,  
1897 and  
1898.

The following figures, extracted from a French newspaper, will, though not official, serve as showing the quantities of the principal products of the island exported in 1897 and in 1898 respectively:—

Articles.				Quantity.	
				1897.	1898.
Sugar..	..	..	Kilos.	34,734,000	31,450,000
Molasses	..	..	"	46,000	13,000
Tafia*	..	..	Hectolitres	174,000	150,000
Coffee	..	..	Kilos.	1,000	1,400
Cocoa..	..	..	"	500,000	635,000
Cassia	..	..	"	119,000	134,000
Logwood	..	..	"	1,500,000	900,000
Indigo	..	..	"	676	376
Vanilla	..	..	"	..	973

Freights from  
French ports.

The freights charged by the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, the principal line running to French West Indian colonies, in general are, per cubic metre or 1,000 kilos. for ordinary merchandise, 65 fr. plus 10 per cent., and for common

\* A kind of rum made from the sugar-cane.

goods, 45 fr. plus 10 per cent. both from Havre, Bordeaux, and Marseilles.

With regard to customs duties it may be said that the French tariff, with certain exceptions, is in force. The exceptions, however, do not affect the more important imports from the United Kingdom. Coal is free of all duty. Customs duties.

The export dues are levied on sugar and molasses (1 fr. per 100 kilos.) and rum and tafia (1 centime per litre). These dues take the place of a land tax.

### *Guadeloupe.*

The colony of Guadeloupe consists of two principal islands, Guadeloupe proper and Basse Terre, which are separated by a narrow channel, and several dependencies, of which Saint Barthelmy is the most important. Like its sister colony Martinique, Guadeloupe is one of the oldest French establishments abroad, dating back some two centuries. Its economic past is on the whole similar to that of Martinique and all other West Indian islands, and may be summed up as a long period of considerable prosperity followed by relative decay, due partially to the abolition of slavery, but mainly to the fall in the price of sugar, which has always been the chief product. Guadeloupe and Basse Terre.  
Economic history.

Its area is 1,780 square kiloms., and its population, rather less dense than that of Martinique, about 167,000. In general the present situation of these two colonies would appear to be fairly similar, though, whilst in Guadeloupe the race question does not seem to present so many difficulties as in Martinique, on the other hand, the economic conditions as a whole are probably somewhat more critical. Area and population.

The seat of Government is the town of Basse Terre, in Guadeloupe, it being also one of the most important ports, of which the second is Pointe-à-Pitre. The garrison at present consists of only 122 men of all arms. The number of officials is large, amounting to 1,152, or about one for every 145 inhabitants. Amongst them only 44 hold administrative posts in the strict sense of the expression. Chief centres.  
Number of officials.

The financial situation of the colony is by no means good, and it appears to be almost impossible to obtain loans for public purposes on merely colonial security. Financial situation.

The charges in the Home Colonial Budget for 1899 reach a total of about 64,400*l.*, whilst the Local Budget for 1898 shows an ordinary expenditure of 212,061*l.*, including the fixed charge paid to the Home Government of about 6,000*l.*, for the benefit of the "Invalides." The net expenditure of the Home and Local Governments on behalf of the colony may therefore be estimated in round numbers at 270,000*l.*, which represents about 1*l.* 12*s.* per head of the population. If it is borne in mind that in addition to this rate of expenditure the individual communes also collectively disburse about 100,000*l.* yearly, it will be seen that the cost of government, &c., is quite out of keeping with the re-

sources of the colony, which has not the excuse of being a new country in course of development.

Average  
value of  
production.

Indeed, the total value of the production of Guadeloupe averages annually only about 600,000*l.*, and thus the purely local administrative expenses absorb 50 per cent. of the annual worth of the agricultural and other products. This somewhat unfortunate state of affairs is mainly attributed to the irresponsible manner in which the Conseil Général wields its power of taxation, and the perhaps rather unprofitable uses to which it puts the funds thus obtained. The difficulty of obtaining capital for purposes of public utility has already been mentioned. Here the need of a guarantee from the Home Government makes itself seriously felt, since financial corporations are said to decline to lend on the security of local taxes. Not only is this question serious from a public point of view, but also from that of the individual colonists and planters. The rate of interest is high, and it is apparently impossible to obtain money on terms which would enable them to undertake more extensive agricultural ventures of the types which would serve to replace the cultivation of the sugar-cane. The principal financial establishment in the colony is the Colonial Bank of Guadeloupe, which is said not to be in an extremely flourishing condition owing to the general crisis. This establishment effects loans on standing crops, which at least enables proprietors whose land is already under cultivation to meet their current expenses, but not to undertake new operations.

The above information with regard to the financial aspect of affairs is principally gleaned from interesting reports compiled by the Chambers of Agriculture of Basse Terre and Pointe-à-Pitre, which were amongst the results of a circular issued to the governors of the various French colonies by Monsieur Trouillot, when Minister of Colonies, in August, 1898, requesting information regarding economic matters. The following remarks of a more general bearing have also been mainly gathered from the same sources :—

General local  
opinion.

The tendency of local opinion appears to be decidedly against large, i.e., sugar plantations, and in favour of small holdings, on which so-called secondary crops should be cultivated. These secondary crops, coffee, cocoa, cotton, tobacco, and vanilla are expected to form the basis of the economic rehabilitation of the colony. With the exception of coffee, no very great progress seems to have as yet been made in the desired direction, and it may be noted that the exportation of this product, as also that of vanilla, shows a certain diminution in the matter of quantity during the first 11 months of 1898, as compared with the same period of 1897.

Sale of  
Government  
lands.

It is stated that at present a very large amount of land, well suited to cultivation, is allowed to remain fallow. A portion of this peculiarly suitable for coffee and cocoa, some 6,000 acres, forms part of the Government domain, and it is proposed to sell this into small lots of from 2½ to 10 acres.

In Basse Terre, with a view to encouraging the growing of **Coffee bounty.** these crops, the bounty system has lately been re-established. These bounties are given for a maximum area under cultivation of 2 hectares (5 acres), and amount for coffee and cocoa to 200 fr. per hectare, and for tobacco and cotton to 150 fr. per hectare. Hitherto, however, the cultivation of both the latter products seems to be of very small importance.

The average production of the coffee plantations is stated to be 600 kilos. per hectare, and that of the cocoa plantations, 1,500 kilos. per hectare, whilst the value of the products is respectively 2 fr. 80 c. and 1 fr. 50 c. per kilo. The current expenses of these plantations in full bearing, exclusive of the cost of picking, is given at about 8*l.* per annum and per hectare for coffee, and 6*l.* for cocoa. **Prices of land and average production, &c.**

A very serious point with regard to the general situation is **Vagrancy** found in the question of vagrancy, which has assumed alarming proportions, and appears to be most difficult to eradicate

In 1888 the imports to Guadeloupe from France and colonies were valued at 464,804*l.*, and those from foreign countries at 495,327*l.*, giving a total of 960,131*l.* In 1897 the figures were respectively, 358,569*l.*, 317,917*l.*, and 676,486*l.* The total import trade had thus fallen off in the 10 years by 283,645*l.*, though it will be noticed that proportionately the French and colonial trade had maintained its position better than the foreign. **Value of imports, 1888 and 1897.**

In 1896, out of a total trade with foreign countries of 406,263*l.*, the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to 138,988*l.* The principal articles were:—Guano, 56,563*l.*; rice, 30,052*l.*; coal, 20,365*l.*; chemicals, 19,255*l.*; and cotton textiles, 6,482*l.* The imports from the United States were a little over half the total of the foreign goods (as regards value) reaching the island during the year under consideration. **Value of imports from Great Britain in 1896.**

The exports from the colony in 1888 reached a total of 1,031,322*l.*, of which 1,013,977*l.* went to France and colonies, and 17,345*l.* to other countries. In 1897 the exports to France and colonies represented a value of 439,712*l.*, and those to other countries, 6,139*l.* Thus the export trade had, in the decade, diminished by 585,471*l.* **Value of exports, 1888 and 1897.**

The trade, which consists principally of sugar, coffee, rum, tafia, cocoa, and logwood, is carried on almost exclusively with the mother country herself. In 1896 the exports to Great Britain were valued at between 10*l.* and 11*l.* **Trade almost exclusively with France.**

The freights from Havre, Bordeaux, and Marseilles, per Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, to Pointe-à-Pitre are, per cubic metre or 1,000 kilos. for ordinary goods, 65 fr.; and for common goods, 45 fr. from Havre, and 45 fr., plus 10 per cent., from the other two ports. **Freights.**

With certain exceptions, the colony is subject to the French customs tariff. The export dues are levied on sugar, 80 c. per 100 kilos.; on molasses, 1 fr. per hectolitre; on coffee and cocoa respectively, 3 fr. 25 c. and 1 fr. per 100 kilos. **Customs duties.**



Trade of  
Great Britain  
with French  
West Indies,  
1891-98.

The following tables, extracted from the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom" for 1898, serve to show the value, according to British statistics, of the trade with the French West Indian colonies for the five years 1894-98:—

Trade of Great Britain with French West Indies, 1894-98.

IMPORTS into the United Kingdom.

Principal and other Articles.	Value.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Total value .. .. .	£ 815	£ 50	£ ..	£ 7,723	£ 86

EXPORTS from the United Kingdom.

PRODUCE and Manufactures of the United Kingdom.

Principal and other Articles.	Value.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Coal, cinders, and fuel ..	28,883	18,183	17,546	18,872	11,686
Cottons, entered by the yard	56,704	31,495	35,600	25,715	21,770
" " at value ..	2,369	1,588	1,651	1,217	1,915
Linens, entered by the yard	1,577	621	769	810	375
Machinery and mill work ..	1,818	243	1,858	321	343
Manure .. .. .	56,998	43,183	62,042	32,281	42,776
Metals: iron, wrought and unwrought ..	3,559	2,460	2,842	1,258	1,620
Woollens and worsteds, entered by the yard ..	1,014	335	762	499	617
Parcel post .. .. .	16	5	12	2	3
All other articles .. ..	7,890	8,856	13,081	5,868	6,034
Total .. .. .	160,328	106,969	136,163	86,843	87,139

*French Guiana.\**

Penal  
settlements.

French Guiana owes most of its notoriety to its being the seat of one of the principal French convict settlements, which is divided into four main stations, Cayenne, Kourou, the Iles du Salut and Maroni. Though the various expenses connected with the penal administration are provided for in the Colonial Budget, this subject can scarcely be said to have any very direct connection with the colony from an economic point of view, and need, therefore, not be dealt with in extenso here. It may, however, be remarked that, for various reasons, the attempts to utilise convict labour for general purposes do not appear to have been very successful.

\* The latest information with regard to the trade of French Guiana will be found in Mr. Vice-Consul Wacogne's Report for 1898, No. 2360 Annual Series.

The area of the colony, according to the latest official figures, **Area and population.** is estimated at 13,087 square kiloms. M. E. Petit, however, in his authoritative work, "Organisation des Colonies Françaises," gives the area as 121,413 square kiloms., not including the contested zone. The population is nearly 27,000. The country, therefore, ranks almost on a par with French Somaliland in the matter of sparseness of population. The town of Cayenne, both the official and commercial capital, was founded by the French as early as 1654, and the French claim over this portion of South America dates from that year, though the capital passed through both British and Dutch hands previous to 1815.

For administrative purposes the colony is divided into 14 **Administrative divisions.** communes, exclusive of the Maroni district. This arrangement was first introduced in 1879, but abrogated in 1889, being finally re-established in 1892. One deputy represents the colony in the French Chamber.

The number of officials is 521, amongst whom 23 hold purely **Number of Governmental posts.** These figures do not include the staff of officials, &c. the penal settlements. The number of troops appears to be 380.

The charge in the 1899 French Colonial Budget on behalf of **Colonial Budget.** French Guiana amounts to 252,203*l.* Of this sum, however, 194,689*l.* represents the estimated expenditure on account of the penal settlement, and consequently, from a strictly colonial point of view, does not rank. The net cost of the colony to the mother country may be taken as 57,514*l.*

The local ordinary expenditure for 1898 was estimated at **Local Budget.** 97,158*l.*, including a total sum of some 3,500*l.* paid to the Home Government. The transfer of that portion of the civil and police expenditure, which is at present borne by the Home Government, and the suppression of the payment made by the colony to the Colonial Budget, would, in this case, result in a net increase of local expenditure of nearly 16,000*l.* In round numbers, the total net annual expenditure would at present appear to be about 150,000*l.*, a comparatively high rate in view of the smallness of the population and the slight importance of the general trade. The possibility of meeting this expenditure is largely accounted for by the 6 per cent. export duty on gold, which, owing to the increased production during 1895-96, enabled the reserve fund to reach its maximum.

From a general point of view, there is little to be said about **Climate, &c.** French Guiana. The climate is distinctly unhealthy, and the country, consequently, but little suited to European colonisation. In fact, all attempts of this class on anything like a large scale have proved failures.

The interior is, to a great extent, covered with dense forests, **Forests.** containing many kinds of valuable tropical timber, which, as yet, have not been rendered as productive as might have been the case had the general conditions been other than they are. In this, as in almost all other possible sources of development the lack of adequate labour has been a fatal hindrance to progress. The natives are not to be attracted even by high wages. A large

proportion of the blacks, at the time of the abolition of slavery, betook themselves to the interior and the introduction of Indian coolies did not prove successful.

**Immigration.** It has been suggested that the immigration of Annamites might give better results since the climatic conditions of the two countries are somewhat similar, and Annamite convicts liberated after serving their time have been found to thrive.

**Gold mines.** The colony is, apparently, in many respects one of the least profitable to the mother country, and, whilst by no means amongst the most expensive, does not seem to hold out the same prospects for the future as some other portions of the French Colonial Empire. In fact, were it not for the gold mines the value of the exports would be practically nominal. The precious metal is mainly found in alluvial deposits, though a certain amount of gold bearing quartz is also worked. Its production, though almost the only source of wealth of the colony, is made responsible by competent authorities for the small amount of attention which, up to the present, has been devoted to the various agricultural products to which both climate and soil are said to be well suited. It is complained that the few European immigrants, instead of establishing themselves permanently as colonists and giving themselves up to the cultivation of the soil, are immediately attracted by the gold mines.

**Value of imports, 1888 and 1897.** The value of imports into French Guiana in 1888 was 485,992*l.*, consisting of 328,960*l.* from France and colonies, and 157,032*l.* from other countries. In 1897 the total value of goods imported stood at 373,356*l.*, the French and colonial trade being represented by 253,559*l.*, and the foreign by 119,797*l.* In a total decrease in the 10 years of 112,636*l.* the commerce with France and her colonies has fallen off by 75,401*l.*, and that with foreign countries by 37,235*l.* The trade with the mother country and dependencies had, therefore, proportionately suffered rather more severely than that with other countries.

**Imports from Great Britain.** According to the French official statistics no direct trade took place with the United Kingdom in 1896, though the appended table, extracted from the "Annual Statement of Trade of the United Kingdom for 1898," places the figure for that year at 4,844*l.*

**Value of exports, 1888 and 1897.** The total value of exports from French Guiana for 1888 was 238,170*l.* The exports to France and French colonies were worth 229,718*l.*, and those to foreign countries 8,452*l.* In 1897 the exports to France and French colonies were valued at 277,446*l.*, and those to other countries at 8,981*l.*, giving a total of 286,427*l.* Thus, whilst the value of exports to the mother country and her colonies had increased by 47,728*l.* the trade with foreign countries had remained practically stationary.

**Value of exports, 1896.** In both cases the figures include the value of imports re-exported. The value of purely colonial products exported in 1896 was 350,022*l.* This consisted almost entirely of gold with the exception of about 7,700*l.* worth of phosphate of lime. The gold went entirely to France, whilst, according to French statistics,

about 6,500*l.* worth of the phosphates was sent to the United States. No mention is made of any exports to the United Kingdom. On the other hand, there is an importation from French Guiana of phosphates to the value of 5,275*l.*

With certain exceptions French Guiana is subject to the home Customs customs tariff. These exceptions consist mainly of the exemption duties of various food products, timber, &c., from all duty, whilst raw tobacco pays 50 fr., manufactured tobacco 150 fr., and cigars and cigarettes 250 fr. per 100 kilos.

The freights per the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique Freightste. steamers from Havre, Bordeaux, and Marseilles to Cayenne for ordinary goods is 80 fr., for common goods from Havre 60 fr., and from Bordeaux and Marseilles 60 fr., plus 10 per cent. in all cases per cubic metre or per 1,000 kilos.

### TRADE of Great Britain with French Guiana.\*

#### IMPORTS into the United Kingdom.

Principal and other Articles.	Value.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Manures: phosphate of lime .. ..	2,048	4,350	5,275	8,790	3,600
All other articles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Total .. ..	2,048	4,350	5,275	8,790	3,600

#### EXPORTS from the United Kingdom.

#### PRODUCE and Manufactures of the United Kingdom.

Principal and other Articles.	Value.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Cottons, entered by the yard ..	3,983	1,829	2,319	1,920	1,255
Metals: iron, wrought and unwrought .. ..	522	1,502	1,989	1,900	356
All other articles .. ..	920	795	536	1,216	342
Total .. ..	5,425	4,126	4,844	5,036	1,953

\* British Customs statistics.

## II.—WEST AFRICA.

Decree of  
October 17,  
1899.

Before entering upon the individual notices of French West African colonies it may, perhaps, not be out of place to remark that these possessions have just undergone a new phase of development. Hitherto the vast territory under French suzerainty in the interior, comprising many different districts and peopled by many different races, has been included in a single colony—French Sudan—which, a somewhat vague definition, embraced the whole of the French sphere of influence in this part of the world, with the exception of the more direct hinterlands of the various French colonies on the West Coast.

Basing the presumption of their advisability upon the progress already made, Monsieur Decrais, Minister of Colonies, on October 17 last, addressed a report to the President of the Republic, proposing the following modifications which were duly sanctioned by a Decree of the same date:—

1. The absolute administrative and fiscal incorporation in Senegal, the Ivory Coast, French Guinea, and Dahomey of the greater part of the western and south-western portions of the French Sudan, leaving to that colony only its northern and north-eastern districts which will henceforth be divided into two military zones under the jurisdiction of two military officers.

2. The placing of the supreme local power with regard to all French West African colonies in the hands of a governor-general, resident at St. Louis.

3. The institution of a supreme local military chief, the auxiliary of the governor-general, having under his orders the whole of the armed forces of the nation in French West Africa.

4. The incorporation in the local budget of Senegal of the local budgets of the two military zones above referred to.

It may be noted that, whilst these changes are of the first importance from administrative and fiscal points of view, their direct effect upon trade, particularly as regards imports, is not likely to be very far reaching, as all goods destined for the French Sudan must, under any circumstances, enter by one of the usual routes from the coast to the interior.

*Senegal.*

It is only since 1855 that Senegal has seriously attracted the attention of the French authorities, the name of General Faidherbe, who first formed the project of uniting Algeria to the West Coast possessions, being indissolubly associated with the conquest of the region.

**Frontiers.**

The maritime frontier runs from Cape Blanco to the British colony of Gambia. South of this again, the flourishing district of Casamance, extending as far as Portuguese Guinea, is included in the colony. The land frontier towards the interior is somewhat undefined. According to the decree of October 17, 1899, the districts of Kayes, Bafulabeh, Kita, Satadugu, Bamoko, Segu,

Djenné, Niour, Gumbu, Sokoto, and Buguni, hitherto part of the French Sudan, are included in Senegal.

The form of government varies for the different parts of the territory, according to the length of time during which they have been under French rule. The tax-paying districts possess a greater or less degree of local self-government, whilst a very considerable tract of country is still under a merely nominal protectorate. A single deputy represents the colony in the French Chamber.

The number of officials of all classes is 620, of whom 182 hold purely administrative posts. The number of troops is 2,600, of whom 1,252 are natives.

The principal towns are St. Louis, the capital; Dakar, and Rufisque. It appears probable that Dakar is destined to hold an important position as a commercial centre and port of call, not only for Senegal, but for the whole West Coast.

The general economic situation of the colony has, it is said, improved very considerably of late years. The reserve fund has reached its maximum and the local expenditure, including over 16,000*l.* for public works, was estimated at 155,618*l.* for 1898, whilst the quota of the colony in the general French Colonial Estimates for 1899 amounts to 241,859*l.* The total average annual expenditure would appear to be between 390,000*l.* and 400,000*l.* The colony now pays a little under 2,000*l.* per annum to the Home Government. As a result of the reforms already mentioned, this payment will be cancelled, and, on the other hand, the civil and police expenditure now borne by the Colonial Budget, amounting to slightly over 7,000*l.* per annum, will be charged upon the Local Budget.

The condition of affairs is considered so flourishing that it is proposed to undertake public works on a larger scale than heretofore. The expenditure necessitated is estimated at from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 fr. to be covered by a loan raised after the conversion of the present debt. The principal undertakings in view are roads in the neighbourhood of the centres, a wharf at St. Louis and a railway through the Baol country. The protectorates in the interior will probably be called upon to bear a part of the cost of the latter.

The situation of the railway from Dakar to St. Louis seems still to be far from satisfactory. The receipts do not as yet balance the working expenses, and between the guaranteed interest and the deficit the line appears in the Colonial Budget for a sum of about 40,000*l.* The general prosperity has had its effect upon the Colonial Bank of Senegal, which for the financial year 1897-98 paid a dividend of 5 per cent.

The customs duties in Senegal are at the rate of 7 per cent. *ad valorem* for all merchandise of foreign origin imported, with the exception of guineas which pay 31 c. per metre. French and colonial guineas (chiefly from the Indian Settlements) pay 2½ c. per metre. The personal property of colonists, &c., is exempted from all charges. The export dues are 7 per cent. *ad valorem* on

all products exported from the Casamance district and 1 fr. 50 c. per 100 kilos. on gums exported from the Senegal River.

**Freights.**

The freights from Marseilles and Bordeaux are as follows:—

Marseilles: Dakar, 20 fr. per ton of the general French tariff; Rufisque, 22 fr. 40 c.; St. Louis, 40 fr. The steamers belonging to Fraissinet and Co., which sail once a month, carrying the mails and subsidised by the Government, are the only regular means of communication between Marseilles and the above ports.

Bordeaux: Dakar, Rufisque, and Goree, 20 fr. per metric ton; St. Louis, 30 fr.

**Value of imports, 1888 and 1897.**

The value of imports into Senegal for 1888 was 1,022,283*l.*, of which 498,068*l.* came from France and colonies, whilst 524,215*l.* was due to foreign trade. In 1897 the figures were respectively 1,155,640*l.*—667,428*l.* and 488,212*l.*—showing a net increase of 133,357*l.* It will, however, be observed that the imports from France and colonies increased by 169,360*l.*, whilst those from foreign countries decreased by 36,003*l.*

**Imports from Great Britain, 1896.**

In 1896 the imports from the United Kingdom were valued at 154,873*l.* Textiles (mainly cotton), 114,760*l.*, and coal and compressed fuel, 21,365*l.*, were the principal commodities imported.

**Principal imports.**

On the other hand, the imports from France for the same year amounted to 464,311*l.* The principal items were cereals and flour, 90,213*l.*; textiles, 86,750*l.*; wines and spirits, 52,550*l.*; sugar, etc.; 40,090*l.*; hardware, etc., 28,480*l.*

**Value of exports, 1888 and 1897.**

The exports of the colony in 1888 were valued at 655,209*l.*, of which 465,638*l.* went to France and colonies and 189,571*l.* to foreign countries. In 1897 the trade was valued at 837,094*l.* Of this, products worth 637,840*l.* went to France and colonies and 199,254*l.* to foreign countries. The total net increase was, therefore, 181,885*l.*, in which the trade with France stands for over 170,000*l.*, and that with foreign countries for about 10,000*l.* In both years the figures include the value of imports re-exported.

**Exports to the United Kingdom, 1896.**

In 1896 the exports of colonial products to the United Kingdom were valued at 82,525*l.* The main exports were, ground-nuts, about 72,000*l.*; and rubber, 5,665*l.* In the same year France received 254,475*l.* worth of ground-nuts, 117,940*l.* worth of gums, and 17,670*l.* worth of rubber. With regard to the latter product it may be mentioned that a system of differential export duties is under consideration. This measure is calculated to drive all the rubber exported from French West Africa on to the French market.

**Trade in 1898.**

The official figures showing the trade of the colony during the year 1898 have just been published.

**Imports, 1898.**

The imports reached a total of 1,313,069*l.*, those from France and her colonies being worth 830,852*l.*, and those from foreign countries 482,217*l.* Of this latter amount, the imports from the United Kingdom were valued at 292,554*l.* The trade in cotton textiles was worth about 372,000*l.*, the share of the United Kingdom being about 122,000*l.*, or nearly 33 per cent. of the total. Of unbleached, bleached, dyed, and printed cotton goods some 68 per cent. (as regards value) came from the United Kingdom, whilst,

**Cotton textiles.**

on the contrary, fully three-fifths of the guineas were of French origin. Coal holds the second place during 1898 amongst the British merchandise imported.

The exports during the same year reached a total value of Exports, 1,154,336*l*. France and her colonies absorbed 916,197*l*. worth of 1898. local produce, leaving a residue of 238,129*l*. for foreign countries. The exports to the United Kingdom were worth about 26,400*l*. and consisted almost entirely of india-rubber.

The total number of vessels entering and clearing at Sene- Shipping. galese ports during 1898 was 1,011 of a tonnage of 1,372,885 tons, as compared to, in 1897, 1,021 with a tonnage of 1,144,071 tons. British vessels numbered 265 with a tonnage of 387,995 tons in 1898, and 255 with a tonnage of 323,329 tons in 1897.

### *French Sudan.\**

The French Sudan comprises a vast territory stretching Frontiers. from Algeria and Tunis in the north to the Royal Niger Company's present sphere of influence in the south and from the hinterlands of the various colonies on the West Coast to a line drawn from the southernmost point of Tripoli to Lake Tchad in the East. Its area is given in the report on the Colonial Budget for 1897 at 120,000 square kiloms., and its popu- Area and lation at 2,400,000. This has naturally decreased considerably since the reorganisation of French West Africa, already mentioned; nevertheless, M. Petit, in his work on the Organisation of French Colonies, published in 1894, remarks that it is impossible to determine the limits of the French Sudan, which vary according to the annual conquests, or to arrive at an exact estimate of the number of inhabitants.

The era of French conquest in this part of Africa may be said Previous to have begun, more or less, with the expedition against El Hadj history. Omar as early as 1854, followed by the siege of Medina on the Senegal and its relief by General Faidherbe in 1857. Until 1880 this town was the last French post on that river. Since then, however, very numerous expeditions associated with the names of Borgnis-Desbordes, Gallieni, Frey, &c., have been carried out from various directions with a view to subjugating the country, and, in 1897, French power was represented by no fewer than 39 more or less important military posts. Indeed, though a certain amount Administration. has of late been done towards endowing the country with an administration more akin to the civil administration existing in most French colonies, the territories held by France appear to be almost entirely under military rule.

The number of military posts was made the subject of criticism Number of by M. Siegfried in the report on the Colonial Budget for 1897, and military posts.

\* Though this colony, as already mentioned, has quite lately been to a great extent disintegrated, it has been thought best to maintain the notice in its present form. It must be borne in mind that large tracts of country now no longer belong to it administratively, having been incorporated in other French West African colonies.



he suggested that their reduction, as far as was compatible with the maintenance of French supremacy, might be advisable. The figures for the present year are, unfortunately, not available, and whilst they may have been concentrated, the number of troops in the country has risen slightly from 3,256 in 1897 to 3,408 at present.

**Colonial  
Budget.**

Since 1891 the colony has proved a source of serious expense to the French Government. In 1894 and 1895 the annual expenses amounted to 470,848*l.* and 388,286*l.* respectively, whilst the amount voted for 1896 was 338,000*l.*; for 1897, 252,480*l.*; and for 1898, 247,200*l.* The vote for this year shows a total expenditure of 246,600*l.*, including a sum of 26,455*l.* for the building and maintenance of the railway from Kayes on the Senegal to Bamoko on the Niger. This total outlay is slightly lower than that necessary during 1898; on the other hand, it is considerably below the average of the whole period since 1891. The principal difficulty which hinders the normal development of the French Sudan would seem to lie in its still unsettled state. Constant expeditions against native chieftains, even during last year, are spoken of in the report on the Colonial Budget for 1899, and the Reporter indicates that he is by no means certain that the need for them has, as yet, disappeared. At the same time the local financial

**Local Budget.**

situation shows a tendency towards improvement. The estimated local receipts, as given in the "Quinzaine Coloniale," reach this year a total of 129,247*l.*, or an increase over the estimates for 1898 of 21,504*l.* As almost the whole of this increase of revenue is expected from higher receipts from direct taxation, it may, perhaps, be safely inferred that the local authorities expect the present to prove a year of greater tranquillity than those which have preceded it.

Notwithstanding the need of the already-mentioned military expeditions it will, however, be seen from the following table, compiled from the official report for 1898, that, during the last four years, the local financial resources have developed considerably. It may be noted that the apparent diminution in 1897 was due to the creation of a special railway budget, resulting in the withdrawal from the local budget of both receipts and expenditure under this head:—

Year.	Amount.	
	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1895 .. .. .	99,585	93,648
1896 .. .. .	138,995	129,468
1897 .. .. .	118,504	118,504*
1898 .. .. .	149,739	149,739*

\* Estimate.

**Kayes-  
Bamoko  
Railway.**

The railway from Kayes to Bamoko is a project which has

already been some time in course of execution. But by means of new arrangements which have been made, both of a financial nature and in the method of building, it is hoped that the line will be finished by 1903. According to a convention ratified by the Finance Act of 1898, the Government and the colony undertake to contribute in equal shares and by instalments a sum not exceeding 24,000,000 fr. during the 24 years following that date. The annual subsidy to be granted by the Government is never to be less than 500,000 fr., and the right of forestalling the subsidy is reserved. The colony, for its part, has just been authorised to negotiate a loan with the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations to the amount of 3,208,000 fr., redeemable in 24 years, for the carrying on of the work during the current year. The economic value of this line will undoubtedly be very great, as it will place the upper waters of the Niger in rapid and direct communication with the ports of the Senegalese coast during the whole rainy season when the river is navigable for large vessels, whilst, even in the dry season it will serve to shorten the transit to and from the interior considerably. According to an official report, it appears that at the end of 1898 164 kiloms. of line had been laid. The receipts from traffic amounted in 1898 to 16,400.

Whilst speaking of railways it may, perhaps, be well to call attention to a much more ambitious scheme which finds one of its principal advocates in Monsieur Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, the well-known editor of the "*Economiste Français*" and author of the standard work on colonisation already mentioned. The scheme referred to is the Trans-Saharan Railway. In a couple of articles published last autumn in his journal on this subject Monsieur Leroy-Beaulieu admits that the importance of the railway, owing to the peculiar position occupied by France in Algeria and Tunis, is mainly strategic, since, with the military force there at its disposal it would place the country in a position to command the whole north-western portion of Africa. At the same time, however, he holds out the hope of a certain trade movement in the future, whilst he estimates the cost at from 10,000,000l. to 12,000,000l.

The French Sudan is still, comparatively speaking, so little known a country that its economic future must necessarily be, more or less, a matter of conjecture. It is natural to suppose that as the pacification of the various districts proceeds, trade will increase. For the present, however, though no complete statistics are available, the Reporter on the Colonial Budget for 1899 takes a somewhat pessimistic view of the situation, particularly as regards the importation of French goods, and sums up his remarks by stating that the imports from the mother country consist of stores, &c., for the use of the army whilst the real mercantile transactions are carried on by traders of other nationalities. He further notes that the sum total of the imports shows a tendency to fall off.

According to the Official Report for 1898 the values of imports and exports in 1897 and 1898 were respectively as follows:—

				Value.		Increase or Decrease in 1898.
				1897.	1898.	
				£	£	£
Imports..	..	..	..	311,094	318,024	+ 6,930
Exports..	..	..	..	162,410	143,627	- 18,813

The value of imports from France and French colonies in 1898 (including French Guinea) was 107,771*l.*, and that of the imports from foreign countries and their colonies (including Sierra Leone), 99,816*l.* The remainder of the imports are credited to neighbouring parts of Africa including Liberia. The value of French textiles was rather higher than that of foreign textiles; the latter coming mainly from the United Kingdom and Belgium. In the general trade this is by far the most noteworthy import.

The great difference between the importations and exportations is partly due to the impossibility of securing comprehensive and exact data with regard to the latter.

The latest general economic information regarding the country is epitomised in the "Trade and Shipping of Africa," published by the Board of Trade, and it will, therefore, be best to quote *in extenso* the remarks contained in that publication.

"The French campaigns of 1889 and 1894 opened up to French trade the middle courses of the Niger, and in 1895 Lieut.-Colonel Treutinan, Governor of the Sudan, devoted himself to reducing the expenses of the army of occupation and the development of agriculture and trade. At the same time the number of stations for the collection of *oussourou* were increased, this being a tax which is in principle the levying of 1 per cent. in goods on caravan cargoes: further, the annexation of the country between the Niger and the Bani, the establishment of a protectorate over Massina, and the pacification of the Mossi tended to increase, to the profit of the Local Budget, the levy of *oussourou* on the many commercial transactions which are out on the Eastern frontier.

"The writer of the article in the 'Economiste Français,' from which the above is taken, goes on to say that the establishment of French authority over these districts, by assuring tranquillity and security for business transactions, has brought about a revival of trade.

"The requirements of the natives have increased; the ways of communication have again become frequented, villages have been built or re-built, and, since 1893, patents, licenses and market rights have been duly regulated. Licensed ferrymen at fixed rates have been provided for the crossing of rivers, and, finally, there has been attached to the Colonial Government since April 1, 1897, a consulting commercial committee consisting of four French merchants and three native representatives. Owing to this organisation the total movement of trade in 1896 rose to 28,500,000 fr.

As in all new countries, the importation of European goods holds an important place; the value of the imports into the Sudan of piece-goods in 1896 amounted to 3,158,000 fr.

"The country produces cottons of medium quality and coarsely woven, which are sold in widths of 20 centims., at from 20 to 50 c. the metre, according to quality, colour, and distance of country of origin; but the natives prefer a softer and more attractive material, and at Timbuctoo a good market is found for silk piece-goods of medium quality at a price of from 10 to 15 fr. the metre.

"The approximate number of pieces of long cloth imported was 120,000 at Kayes and Medina, 18,000 at Timbuctoo, and 3,000 into the markets of the South. The country has consumed 116,000 pieces of 15 metres each at a price varying from 50 c. to 1 fr. 25 c. the metre.

"This latter price of 1 fr. 25 c. at which the cloth is sold at Timbuctoo is too high, and in consequence there is a ready market in that district for the native material which was disposed of in 1896 to the value of 116,000 fr., and to compete successfully with this native product, the price of the imported article must not exceed 1 fr. With regard to the competition of foreign long cloth and other piece-goods with the French article, it is keenest in the districts of the South, where they command the market. It would appear that this success arises from the fact that the English houses on the coast are better supplied than the French, that the intercourse is most cordial, the prices lower, and the products of the interior paid for immediately in silver instead of being exchanged against other products. As far as Timbuctoo is concerned, the various piece-goods of foreign (*i.e.*, other than French) manufacture come from Morocco, Tuat, and Tripoli.

"After piece-goods, articles of food form the most important article of import from Europe.

"In 1896, the value of these was 509,000 fr., of which 30,000 fr. worth went to Timbuctoo and the rest to Kayes and Medina. In the total value of goods consumed by the administration of the Sudan, provisions and preserved foods figure for 155,000 fr., this including besides preserved food, grocery stores; wines and spirits were valued at 141,000 fr. The natives are very partial to syrups, but they also appreciate absinthe and brandy. After these two categories of products come sugar, 95,000 fr.; and white salt 63,000 fr. The consumption of flour was stated to be also on the increase; but of all these articles of food, the most appreciated, perhaps, is salt which before the conquest might be said to have been a luxury, while now it costs only 20 c. the kilo. at Kayes, and if it can be conveyed without much loss to the banks of the Niger, it will fetch at least 1 fr. the kilo. This difference in value ought to tempt traders, and indeed the transport of salt is already carried on on a large scale. The absinthe trade also brings great profits.

"At Timbuctoo the price of articles of food is much higher than at Kayes: sugar there costs 5 fr. and tea 50 fr. per kilo., and the quantity imported is, consequently, small. In 1896 there

were imported at Timbuctoo but 2,687 kilos. of sugar worth 20,995 fr., 173 kilos. of tea worth 8,650 fr., and 42 litres of absinthe worth 504 fr., all of which were French except 175 kilos. of sugar bearing an English mark, and 344 kilos. bearing a Belgian mark—from Morocco.

"The southern districts of the Sudan consume 24,000 fr. worth of rock salt, of which three-fourths are of English origin, and these districts serve as markets for British manufactured goods, while the other parts of the country are more especially open to French products. Glassware, much sought after by the natives, comes chiefly from Germany as regards the northern, and England for the southern districts. On the whole, notwithstanding these and other exceptions which might be noted, France furnishes the greater part of the trade in miscellaneous goods; for, of a total value of 307,000 fr. in 1896, French goods represent 257,000 fr.; British, 21,000 fr.; German, 9,000 fr.; and American 20,000 fr. (perhaps tobacco). Besides salt there is another African product of which great quantities are imported into the Sudan, and that is the kola nut. In French territory it is only found at Kissi, and as it is the most common article of exchange in the country, it is brought thither from other parts. The value of this import in 1896 was 1,350,000 fr., or about 24,500,000 nuts, the price varying from 2 fr. 50 c. to 15 fr. the 100 nuts according to the origin and also according to their size and colour, the pink nuts being more highly esteemed than the yellowish-white ones. The kola nut is much appreciated for its medicinal property as a tonic, but it is also in great request in certain native ceremonies such as betrothals, marriages, &c.

"French Sudan also imports animals for food, such as oxen and sheep, the natives consuming neither veal nor pork. The imports of oxen are however small, and have been valued at 14,000 fr., one ox being worth from 60 to 100 fr., but this represents such a small number that it falls short, perhaps, of the actual facts. Yet the daily consumption of Timbuctoo is estimated as being 30 oxen and 1,000 sheep; and, on the other hand, the valley of the Niger from Bamoko to Sansanding is a capital grazing country; the animals breed rapidly, and though the flocks and herds have been ravaged by epidemics, it cannot be doubted that in time the Sudan will become an exporter of both sheep and oxen. It would probably be an easy matter to strengthen the race of sheep by judicious cross-breeding, and live-stock raising may be reckoned as one of the resources of the Sudan.

"It is, moreover, by no means the only one, for to it may be added gum, indiarubber, gold, ivory, hides, and feathers.

"Medina is the great centre of the gum trade. The amount of gum exported from Kayes and Medina in 1895 was 462,502 kilos. of a value of 231,000 fr., which rose in 1896 to 1,210,000 kilos. of a value of 605,000 fr. Gum is also met with in large quantities in the Timbuctoo market where it is worth from 15 to 20 c. the kilo.

"The Government of the Sudan are making efforts also to develop the caoutchouc industry, which is all the more important considering the varied uses to which rubber is now applied, and, in order to encourage the cultivation, the natives have been notified that it would be received in payment of taxes. Collected at Kayes, it is there sold by public auction. In 1895 this brought in 2,200 fr., and in 1896 20,500 fr. The value of 1 kilo. of rubber rose from 2 fr. 30 c. in 1896 to 4 fr. 8 c. in 1897, on account of better methods of preparation. The exportations of rubber to this coast increased in 1896 as compared with 1895.

"Ivory is less abundant, the elephant being hardly hunted at all by the natives. On the other hand the ostrich feather industry may become an important one. An ostrich farm established at Timbuctoo is already working at a profit, and others are being established. As far as gold is concerned, estimates vary, and it is said that some districts, such as Boure and Bambouk, contain very rich deposits."

### *French Guinea.\**

French Guinea was definitely organised as a separate colony in 1893. Previous to that period it was under the jurisdiction of the Governor of Senegal. The northern boundary of the colony is formed by Portuguese Guinea and the southern by Sierra Leone, whilst towards the interior it comprises the rich protectorate of Futa Djallon, the capital of which is Timbo, some 200 kiloms. from the coast. Further, French Guinea now includes the districts of Denguiray, Siguiri, Kurussa, Kankan, Kissidugu and Beyla, lately transferred from the French Sudan. Frontiers.

There are in all 241 officials, about 180 native troops officered by Europeans and 42 colonists of whom 22 are of French nationality. Number of officials.

It would appear that Konakry, the capital and only important centre, is gradually supplanting Sierra Leone in the trade of this portion of the West Coast. As a port of call it is visited annually by a large number of vessels. The latest figures show that during the year 1898 the shipping movement consisted of 2,369 vessels, of a tonnage of 263,763 entering and 2,286 of a tonnage of 263,127 clearing, discharging 15,393 tons and loading 4,491 tons, of which respectively 9,534 tons and 2,882 tons were carried in British bottoms. The Chargeurs Réunis steamers from Havre and the Fraissinet mail boats from Marseilles each call there once a month; in addition to this the Belgian line is said to have lately deserted Sierra Leone in its favour. Besides the road from Konakry to the Niger, of which a certain portion has already been built, the project of a railway seems to have assumed a definite shape. Work will probably be begun shortly, as the colony has contracted a loan of 8,000,000 fr. for the purpose, and it is proposed to connect the port with Kardamana, a point on the upper Niger. Should Konakry-  
Kardamana  
Railway.

\* The latest information with regard to the trade of French Guinea will be found in Mr. Consul Arthur's Report for the year 1898, No. 2364 Annual Series.

the scheme be carried out it seems likely that Kōnakry will become one of the most important commercial centres on the coast.

**Local Budget.** According to the figures of the Local Budget for 1898 the finances of the colony are in a flourishing condition. The local receipts were 70,763*l.*, and the expenditure 53,805*l.* Of this sum 15,898*l.* was expended on public works. The subsidy allotted for 1899 in the Home Colonial Budget estimates amounts to 12,700*l.* Since, however, 4,000*l.* of this was voted for the road to the Niger and about 4,500*l.* for the military expenditure, the colony may be regarded as practically self-supporting.

**Colonial Budget.** During the six years from 1892 to 1897 inclusive the general trade of the colony has grown greatly in importance. In 1892, the first year for which separate figures are available, the imports were estimated at 142,945*l.*, French goods being placed at 24,134*l.* and foreign at 118,811*l.* In 1897 the imports amounted to 302,497*l.*, divided into French and colonial trade, 48,520*l.*, and foreign trade 253,977*l.* The imports from other colonies were very small and the goods imported from the mother country had, therefore, about doubled, whilst the importation of foreign goods had increased by about 112 per cent. The latest official figures show that, in 1898, the total imports were worth 360,795*l.*; the respective proportions of France and her colonies and other countries being 59,422*l.* and 301,573*l.* Of the latter the share of British trade was 65 per cent.

**Value of imports, 1892, 1897 and 1898.** In the year 1896 the value of goods imported from the United Kingdom was 52,398*l.* Of this cotton textiles were valued at 36,540*l.*, and metal goods, hardware, &c., at 3,521*l.* It is satisfactory to observe that, according to figures given in the official report the imports from the United Kingdom in 1898 were worth 207,487*l.* and represented fully 57 per cent. of the total. The increase has shown itself particularly in cotton goods which were worth 139,402*l.* The chief imports from France are wines and spirits, rice, hardware and metal goods, cement and lime, arms and ammunition. Germany, which stands third upon the list, sends rice, arms, and spirits. The importation of the latter, from all sources, shows a diminution of 50 per cent. during the second quarter of 1898 as compared with that of 1897.

**Imports from Great Britain, 1896.** The values of colonial products exported in the year 1892 were: to France, 24,237*l.*; to foreign countries, 134,675*l.*; total, 158,912*l.* In 1897 the figures were respectively: 26,770*l.*, 239,577*l.*, and 266,347*l.* Thus the trade with France increased by 2,533*l.*, and that with foreign countries by 104,902*l.* during the six years.

**Cotton textiles.** The only detailed official statistics are those for 1896. In that year the direct exports to the United Kingdom were trifling, 5,129*l.* The trade for the most part passed through Sierra Leone, that colony being credited with 164,835*l.* worth of products. The principal items were, in round numbers: live-stock, 15,000*l.*; rubber, 109,100*l.*; gum, 10,600*l.*; palm-oil and kernels, 8,000*l.*; raw hides, 6,700*l.* From the somewhat incomplete figures available for the second quarter of 1898 it is evident that the rubber export trade is increasing very rapidly. Its value for the three months is estimated at some 60,000*l.* The other staple products would

**Value of exports, 1892 and 1897.**

**Exports, 1896. Details.**

appear to have fallen off somewhat. The exports to the mother country have, it is said, decreased owing to the rubber being now shipped direct to destination instead of to Havre for transshipment.

The most important provisions of the local customs tariff are as follows: on foreign goods indirectly imported—textiles and clothing, 20 fr. per 100 kilos.; tobacco, 10 fr. per 100 kilos.; gunpowder, 20 fr. per 100 kilos.; other goods, 3 fr. 60 c. per 100 kilos. A general export duty of 7 per cent. ad valorem is levied on all products.

Customs tariff.

Freights from Marseilles to Konakry are 35 fr. per ton.

Freights.

### *Ivory Coast.*

The Ivory Coast owes its organisation as a separate colony to the decree of March 10, 1893. Like French Guinea and Dahomey it had previously been under the jurisdiction of the Governor of Senegal. It is situated between the Republic of Liberia and the Gold Coast. Towards the interior it includes, as a protectorate, the Kong territory, and thus, like all other French colonies in this region, joins on to the French Sudan, and now includes the districts of Odienné, Kong and Buna, which formed part of that territory. The two principal French towns are Assinie and Grand Bassam, the latter being the seat of government.

The capital appears to be in course of development as a trade centre. A wharf is being built, roads towards the interior, notably one to Bondoukou, tapping the Gold Coast Hinterland, have been constructed, a line of telegraph has been established as far as Bettie and the materials necessary for carrying it on towards French Sudan landed, finally the preliminary surveys for a railway, eventually to run as far as Koung, capital of the protectorate of that name, have been carried out.

Proposed railway to Kong.  
Population.

The population comprises two distinct races sub-divided into various tribes amongst whom the Jack-Jacks, who carry on the palm-oil and kernels industry are the most important from a commercial point of view. The number of officials is 348, of whom 41 are employed in administrative posts. There are no regular troops and only 52 colonists including 16 of French nationality.

Number of officials, &c.

The Ivory Coast possesses the peculiarity of being one of the few colonies receiving no assistance of any description from the Home Government in financial matters, paying, on the contrary, a trifling contribution. The ordinary receipts and expenditure for 1898 were estimated at 51,881*l.*, the latter including nearly 10,000*l.* for public works. The export duties on mahogany and other woods did not, however, produce as much as was expected, and consequently the estimated receipts for this year are somewhat below the figures for 1898.

Local Budget.

The principal difficulties which hinder the rapid development of the colony are said to be the lack of adequate means of communication with the interior and the extreme sparseness of the population which amounts to only nine inhabitants per square

General considerations.



kilometre. Nevertheless the general economic situation appears to be fairly satisfactory. Bonduku is becoming a centre of trade between the French Sudan and the coast. There passed through Assikasso, in December, 1898, 226 caravans with 335 loads, 330 with rubber and 5 with ivory. The exportation of the latter commodity, from which the colony takes its name is now, however, insignificant. With regard to rubber it is expected that the exportation will double in the course of the present year, and it is a notable fact that the natives succeed in collecting it without killing the trees. It is also expected that the exportation of gold dust will, in the future, assume larger proportions, but it is still questionable whether gold can be found in sufficient quantities to render its working profitable to Europeans. French firms appear to be taking the place of those of other nationalities. An instance of this is found in the fact that the French West Africa Company has lately acquired the business of an old-established and important British house. There now remain three British firms carrying on trade in the colony. It is interesting to notice that there are several large native merchants, mostly in the mahogany trade, who deal directly with Europe.

Rubber.

Gold.

Value of imports, 1892 and 1897.

The imports in 1892 were worth a total of 78,399*l.*, France forwarding goods to the value of 7,204*l.* and foreign countries, 71,195*l.* In 1897 the imports had increased to 185,893*l.* Of this the colony received 27,908*l.* from France, an increase of 20,804*l.* in the six years, and from foreign countries, 157,985*l.*, the trade having thus grown by 86,790*l.* According to the "Quinzaine Coloniale" the total value of imports in 1898 was 221,732*l.* which would mean a further increase of over 35,000*l.* The official detailed statistics for 1896 place the British merchandise imported at a value of 123,974*l.* The principal items were: cotton textiles, about 29,000*l.*; arms and ammunition, 24,000*l.*; hardware and metal goods, 14,800*l.*; tobacco, 7,200*l.*; spirits, 4,700*l.* According to the latest information it would appear that, comparing the last quarter of 1898 with the same period of 1897, the importation of spirits, salt and threads had doubled, whilst that of textiles (not including silk) had increased by about 15 per cent.

Imports from the United Kingdom, 1896.

Value of exports, 1892 and 1897.

In 1892 the value of exports was 148,068*l.* Of this 55,958*l.* went to France, and 92,110*l.* to foreign countries. In 1897 the trade had increased to 186,876*l.* The share of France amounted to 88,848*l.*, an increase as compared with 1892 of 32,890*l.*, and that of other countries to 98,028*l.* or a slight increase of 5,918*l.* The United Kingdom received in 1896 83,799*l.* worth of products. Mahogany represented about 21,200*l.*; gold dust, 20,200*l.*; rubber, 17,000*l.*; palm oil, 16,800*l.*; and kernels, 5,700*l.* By comparing the same periods as those mentioned in speaking of the import trade, it is found that the exportation of palm oil had doubled and that of rubber increased by about 64 per cent.

Exports to the United Kingdom, 1896.

Customs tariff.

The colony possesses a special customs tariff. Most imports from foreign countries pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. Certain classes of merchandise, such as fancy goods, leather articles, and clothing, pay 3 per cent, *ad valorem*. The most important excep-

tions to these general rules are: cutlery, tools, hardware, and tobacco, which pay respectively 25, 15, 12, and 10 fr. per 100 kilos.

The freights charged from Marseilles to Grand Bassam are *Freights*. 35 fr. plus 10 per cent. per cubic metre for liquids, and 40 fr. plus 10 per cent. per cubic metre for textiles.

### *Dahomey.*

It was only by the decree of June 22, 1894, that Dahomey was organised as a colony distinct from other French West African possessions, though certain portions of the coast had been under French rule for a considerable time. Whydah, the present capital and commercial centre, became a French factory in the early days of colonisation in this part of the world; it was not, however, until 1893 as the consequence of a successful expedition against the King of Dahomey, that the interior became subject to French domination. *Conquest of Dahomey.*

The colony lies between Togoland on the west and Lagos on the east. To the north, *i.e.*, towards the interior it stretches back to meet the vast territory under French influence on the Upper Niger, part of the Liptako country and the Say territory having been transferred from French Sudan to Dahomey. The country appears to be fairly well populated, a special feature being the size of the towns. The inhabitants of Abomey number 60,000, those of Adjara 50,000, those of Kana 25,000, those of Whydah 15,000, &c. The principal port is Kotonoo, which for several years has been provided with a wharf doing away with the inconvenience and delay formerly caused by the bar. The latest fact in connection with the general economic development of the colony is the proposal to build a railway from Kotonoo via Carnotville and Nikki to the Niger; thus, in the event of this and other similar projects already mentioned being carried out, the French Government will, in the course of a few years, find itself in possession of several lines uniting its colonial ports with the great river. *Frontiers.* *Chief towns.* *Kotonoo-Niger Railway.*

The officials of all descriptions number 553, and of these 45 are engaged in administrative duties. The military element is represented by a body of local militia. There are 21 foreign and 12 French colonists. *Number of officials, &c.*

The colony is, from a financial point of view, entirely self-supporting and receives no subsidy from the Home Government. The local expenditure for 1898, including about 9,000*l.* for public works, was estimated at 74,653*l.* The revenue did not quite cover this amount, and it was found necessary to draw upon the reserve fund to the extent of 5,940*l.* *Financial situation.*

The general import trade of the colony has grown steadily since 1892, the first year for which precise data are available. It was then valued at a sum of 254,759*l.*, the merchandise of French origin amounting to 72,747*l.*, and that of foreign origin to 182,012*l.* In 1897, out of a total of 326,452*l.* the importations *Value of imports, 1892 and 1897.*

from France and French colonies were estimated at 116,075*l.*, an increase since 1892 of 43,328*l.*, and those from foreign countries at 210,377*l.* or an increase of 28,365*l.* It will thus be observed that the rate of increase was up to that period largely in favour of the mother country.

Imports from  
the United  
Kingdom,  
1896.

In 1896 according to official statistics, the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to 50,680*l.* or about 13·1 per cent. of the total. Cotton textiles represented 27,803*l.* and tobacco about 7,500*l.* In the same year the trade with Lagos amounted in round numbers to 85,000*l.*, and that with Germany to 95,000*l.* In the latter case spirits were the principal import since their value was given at about 54,000*l.*, indeed, alcoholic beverages constituted nearly 50 per cent. of the total value of all imports.

1898 imports.

The "Quinzaine Coloniale," quoting from the "Journal Officiel du Dahomey," states that the goods imported in 1898 reached a value of 395,840*l.* The value of textiles showed a marked increase of 33,000*l.* as compared with 1897, and the quantity of spirits imported rose from 4,169,261 to 4,720,084 litres. The same journal also gives an interesting comparison between the first quarters of 1898 and 1899, according to which the imports during the latter exceeded those during the former by about 27,700*l.* Of this nearly 7,000*l.* was due to textiles, and it is stated that both the United Kingdom and Lagos profited extensively by the increase.

Value of  
exports, 1892  
and 1897.

The exports in 1892 were valued at 287,521*l.* Products sent to France and French colonies amounted to 63,320*l.*, and those forwarded to other countries, 224,201*l.* After having grown fairly steadily until 1896, the exports fell off slightly in that year, and yet more in 1897, when the values were: total, 228,865*l.*; to France and colonies, 60,502*l.*, i.e., 2,818*l.* less than in 1892; and to other countries, 168,363*l.*, a diminution of 55,838*l.* The official details for 1896 show that the direct trade with the United Kingdom in colonial products amounted to only 10*l.* Lagos, on the other hand, ranking next to France, absorbed over a third of the total, taking nearly 140,000*l.* worth of products, including kernels to a value of some 80,000*l.*, and palm oil worth about 34,000*l.* It may be noted that the direct exports to Germany stood at a value of about 64,000*l.* The "Quinzaine Coloniale," in the article quoted above, showed that the export trade had recovered the lost ground in 1898, and had reached a total of 298,564*l.*, or a little over 30 per cent. more than in 1897. The increase in the quantities of palm oil and kernels exported were respectively 48 and 40 per cent. The figures for the first quarter of 1899, as compared with the same period of 1898 show a further proportionate increase.

Exports to  
the United  
Kingdom,  
1896.

1898 exports.

Shipping  
movement.

The steamers arriving at the ports of Dahomey during the year 1898 numbered 433. The French flag was carried by 111, the British by 133, the German by 156, and the Italian by 25 steamers.

Customs  
duties.

In general the customs duties are at the rate of 4 per cent. *ad valorem*. There are, however, certain exceptions, those of most interest to British exporters being textiles, which pay 50 c., and tobacco, which pays 35 c. per kilogramme.

The freights from Marseilles to Kotonu are, for liquids, 35 fr. *Freights.* per cubic metre, and for textiles 40 fr. per cubic metre.

*French Congo.*

The colonies of Gaboon and French Congo proper were united under the name of French Congo by the decree of May 3, 1891. If the Upper Ubanghi region, which for administrative purposes was to a great extent severed from it in 1894, be included, it ranks amongst the largest of French colonies. To the north it is *Frontiers.* bounded by the German possession of Cameroon, to the south by the Congo Free State, whilst towards the interior it follows the Ubanghi in a northerly and easterly direction until it reaches the line delimitating the French and Anglo-Egyptian spheres of influence fixed by the Convention of March 21, 1899.

Whilst no regular census of the inhabitants of French Congo *Population.* has ever been undertaken, it would appear that the population of this vast territory is generally estimated at about 5,000,000. The *Chief centres.* capital and seat of Government is Libreville, on the northern shore of the Gaboon. This town, however, in 1894 had only about 1,700 inhabitants, including some 200 Europeans. Other centres on the coast are Cette Cama and Loango, the latter the point of departure for Brazzaville, the most important French post in the interior. The number of officials is 580, amongst whom 111 hold administrative positions. The military force consists mainly of *Number of* local militia, and the colonists reach a total of 78, including 14 of *officials, &c.* French nationality.

The cost of this colony forms a somewhat heavy item in the *Colonial* estimates of the French Colonial Budget. The amount of esti- *Budget.* mated expenditure on its behalf for 1899 is 93,386*l.*, whilst the total cost to the State amounts to 98,660*l.* In 1898 the local *Local Budget.* expenditure was estimated at 138,669*l.*, including a subsidy of 1,000,000 fr. to the Upper Ubanghi, bringing the total cost of the colony up to between 230,000*l.* and 240,000*l.*

The Congo country appears to be one of the least developed *Development* amongst French West African colonies. The principal defect is stated to lie in the lack of proper means of communication. M. Jules Siegfried, in his report on the Colonial Budget for 1897, remarks that no agricultural and commercial progress can be expected to take place until the navigable portion of the Congo has been made easily attainable from the coast. The report on the Colonial Budget for 1899 states: "With the exception of a few sanitary works at Libreville, and the construction of a line of telegraph, on the one hand from Loango to Cape Lopez, which is finished, and on the other hand from Loango to Brazzaville, for which a credit of 50,000 fr. was inscribed on the Local Budget for 1898, there are scarcely any public works in the Congo. Neither, it must be admitted, does one find traces of an organised administration, though there are a good number of officials. . . . Our domination in the Congo is at present, on the whole, more fictitious than real. We possess,

in a territory of about 1,800,000 square kiloms., only a small number of posts whose influence can only make itself felt in a circumscribed area."

Grants of  
land.

The question of grants of land in the French Congo has of late excited considerable attention, and a special mission has been sent for the purpose of delimitating the numerous concessions accorded to various commercial associations. A new set of regulations, apparently more or less based upon the Torrens principle, has been issued regarding the matter. Certain of them would seem to be held by competent authorities to be of such a nature as to hinder the progress of the country, and it remains to be seen whether the movement will have a lasting effect, and provide French capital with a profitable outlet. It may be noted that one publication, the "Journal des Chambres de Commerce," gives a considerable amount of credence to the tumour that a number of the applicants are merely the representatives of Belgian capitalists.

The following table gives the concessions already granted up to the end of August, 1899, to private individuals, with the names of the companies subsequently formed for their working:—

Name of Company.	Name of Original Grantees.	Where Situated.	Area.	Capital.
			Square kiloms.	Francs.
Société du Haut-Ogooué ...	Dauvas ... ..	Upper Ogooué ...	106,000	3,000,000
Société de l'Afrique Française...	Ritaine Deschamps ...	Sangha† and Mobaka, between N'Daki ...	9,350	1,000,000
Cie Française du Haut-Congo ...	Tréchet Frères ... ..	Likuala Mossako ...	36,000	2,000,000
Compagnie de la Sangha ...	Gimmig et Campagne ...	Gokoula and N'Daki ...	5,400	800,000
Cie des Produits de la Sangha ...	Mestayer ... ..	Sangha† ... ..	9,650	1,600,000
Société de l'Ekéla-Sangha ...	Guynet ... ..	Sangha† ... ..	8,040	700,000
Sté. Comm. et Agri. de la Kadéï-Sangha ...	Nouzaret ... ..	Mambéré* ... ..	6,500	800,000
Sté. de l'Afrique Equatoriale ...	Nicol Bernain ... ..	Lobal N'Ghié ... ..	33,850	1,200,000
Cie des Caoutchoucs et prod. de la Lobal ...	Cauvez ... ..	Lobal ... ..	32,400	2,000,000
Société de la Haute-Sangha ...	Durand ... ..	Mambéré* and Kadéï ...	12,060	1,200,000
Société de la Kadéï-Sangha ...	Gasengel (1) ... ..	Sangha* ... ..	12,900	1,000,000
Société de l'Ogooué-N'Gounié ...	Gasengel (2) ... ..	Ogooué... ..	3,350	500,000
Compagnie Française du Congo	Faure et Bouteilleau Desbrières ... ..	Likuala-aux-Herbes... ..	65,100	3,000,000
Sté. Agri. et Comm. de l'Alima...	Jacta-Decourcelle ...	Alima* ... ..	20,200	800,000
Société du Baniembé ... ..	David ... ..	Between Lobal and Ibenga ... ..	3,600	700,000
Société de l'Ibenga ... ..	Siegfried ... ..	Ibenga ... ..	14,200	1,500,000
Cie Franco-Congolaise de la Sangha ...	Delineau ... ..	Moyen-Sangha* ... ..	3,600	600,000
Sté. des Etablis. Gratry-M'Poko	Gratry ... ..	M'Poko ... ..	13,900	1,200,000
Sté. de la Sangha Equatoriale...	Collas ... ..	Lower Sangha ... ..	5,100	800,000
Société l'Alimaléenne ... ..	Cousin ... ..	Alima* ... ..	8,300	1,000,000
Cie Générale du Fernand Vaz ...	Isambert ... ..	Fernand Vaz ... ..	16,500	1,500,000
Sté. de la N'Kéni et N'Kéni ...	Romaire ... ..	N'Kéni and N'Kéni ...	1,200	700,000
Société de la Sette-Cama ...	Devès ... ..	Sette-Cama ... ..	23,400	1,200,000
Cie Française du Congo Occi- dental ...	Vergnes, Lindenboom, et Cie, et Dellignan ...	Nyanga ... ..	20,200	1,800,000
Cie de la Haute-N'Gounié ...	Léplus ... ..	Upper N'Gounié ... ..	1,100	900,000
Sté. des Factoreries de N'Djolé	Monihaye ... ..	Lower N'Gounié ... ..	4,200	600,000
Cie Comm. de Colon. du Congo Français ...	Cie Française du Congo et des Colonies Afric. ...	Nana Poundé... ..	12,400	1,000,000
Société de l'Ongomo ... ..	Jobet ... ..	Ongomo ... ..	8,200	800,000
† ... ..	Martin ... ..	Mobaye ... ..	8,000	1,000,000
Société la Kotto ... ..	Remy, Martin, Boulet Mahieu et Géstéval ...	Kotto* ... ..	37,000	2,500,000
† ... ..	Lang ... ..	Kouango* ... ..	15,300	1,125,000
Cie du Kouango-Oubanghi ...	La Revellère ... ..	Kouango† ... ..	16,000	1,125,000
† ... ..	Normandin ... ..	Upper Mambéré ... ..	5,800	600,000
Cie Agri. Comm. et Industrielle de la Lédai ...	Bouvier ... ..	Lédai† ... ..	13,700	1,200,000
† ... ..	Sté. du Bas Ogooué ...	Lower Ogooué ... ..	2,200	600,000
† ... ..	Bazenot ... ..	Lagune N'Ganio ... ..	2,800	400,000
Cie de N'Goko (Onesso)... ..	Paquier, Mimerel, Kunk- ler ... ..	Lagune N'Goko ... ..	...	1,250,000
Société Sultanats du Haut- Oubangui ...	Bouchart, Couvreur, &c. ...	Sultanats ... ..	...	9,000,000
† ... ..	Laroche-Kergarion ...	Ombéla ... ..	...	1,000,000

\* Right bank.

† Left bank.

‡ Company not yet formed.

With regard to the state of trade in the colony, the latest details have been given in the Board of Trade publication, "the Trade and Shipping of Africa." It need only, therefore, be mentioned here that the total imports and exports in 1892, the first year for which official figures are available, amounted to 205,803/ and 98,955/ for France and French colonies and foreign countries respectively. Since that period, whilst on the whole showing a fairly upward tendency, both branches of commerce have been subject to a certain amount of fluctuation. The principal imports are metal goods, spirits, and textiles, the latter coming for the greater part from the United Kingdom. The usual West African staples, rubber, palm oil, and, notably, a considerable amount of ivory, form the chief exports.

General  
trade.

Customs  
tariffs.

In the matter of customs tariffs the colony is divided into two distinct sections. From N'Bombo to Cette Cama the general French tariff, with a certain number of exceptions, is in force. Textiles pay 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, raw tobacco 50 fr., and manufactured tobacco from 150 to 250 fr. per 100 kilos, according to quality. A provisional export duty of 7 per cent. *ad valorem* is levied on rubber and ivory.

The rest of the territory, from Cette Cama to Massahe, being within the basin of the Congo, is therefore under the Customs régime of the Berlin Act. The duties vary considerably according to the class of merchandise. Textiles of all descriptions pay 20 per cent. *ad valorem*. The export duties are levied on all products calculated at a general rate of 7 per cent. *ad valorem*. At present, only ivory and rubber are taxed.

## Freights.

The freights by the Fraissinet steamers to Libreville from Marseilles are, per cubic metre, 40 fr. for liquids, and 45 fr. for textiles.

Trade of  
United  
Kingdom  
with French  
West  
African  
colonies.

The subjoined tables, which have appeared in the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries," will show for the five years 1894-98, and according to British statistics, what has annually been the value of produce imported from, and purely British goods exported to, the French West African colonies as a whole—

TRADE of the United Kingdom with French West African Colonies,  
1894-98.

## IMPORTS into the United Kingdom.

Principal and other Articles.	Value.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Caoutchouc .. ..	116,294	125,175	117,752	143,965	285,120
Dye-woods (other than logwood) .. ..	1,987	1,375	564	341	950
Gum, of all sorts .. ..	3,152	2,324	2,381	5,561	11,875
Hides, raw .. ..	..	..	..	64	4,923
Ivory: teeth, elephants', &c.	10,655	12,952	10,337	11,515	16,773
Nuts and kernels: for ex- pressing oil therefrom..	7,606	1,726	2,338	7,123	13,153
Oil, palm .. ..	25,818	37,158	12,415	9,586	11,134
Skins: furs of all sorts ..	898	1,143	980	192	31
Wax .. ..	288	143	625	878	2,172
Wood, furniture woods and hard woods—					
Mahogany .. ..	47,835	31,476	50,299	127,481	81,590
Unenumerated .. ..	5,292	5,954	3,790	4,320	1,290
All other articles.. ..	2,373	2,278	1,961	1,404	2,182
Total .. ..	222,198	221,704	203,442	312,430	431,192

**EXPORTS from the United Kingdom.**  
**PRODUCE and Manufactures of the United Kingdom.**

Principal and other Articles.	Value.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Apparel and haberdashery	1,227	3,452	4,380	4,302	5,863
Arms, ammunition, and military stores ..	15,018	18,108	24,334	19,386	15,736
Coal, cinders, and fuel	16,615	11,341	12,363	19,696	12,828
Cotton yarn .. ..	1,862	1,357	1,325	1,624	2,397
Cottons—					
Entered by the yard ..	110,512	183,508	235,917	271,974	374,252
" at value ..	4,109	7,654	9,891	15,398	17,531
Earthen and chinaware	1,426	2,976	2,980	2,728	3,893
Hardware, unenumerated	1,255	3,457	4,362	3,070	2,613
Cutlery .. ..					2,016
Metals: iron, wrought and unwrought .. ..	2,547	8,393	10,102	11,570	15,227
Oil: seed .. ..	51	99	490	6,050	10,860
Provisions (including meat)	629	2,771	4,306	4,585	4,940
Salt .. ..	868	4,281	3,310	5,168	5,814
Spirits: British and Irish	754	1,719	1,992	2,274	3,062
Telegraphic wires and apparatus .. ..	30	1,105	..	24	12,413
Wood, manufactures of ..	3,922	9,378	7,695	4,136	7,108
Parcel post .. ..	10	12	15	180	46
All other articles .. ..	12,147	23,234	24,796	29,109	35,224
Total .. ..	172,980	282,845	348,253	401,224	531,848

### III.—INDIAN OCEAN AND EAST AFRICA.

#### *Madagascar.*

The island of Madagascar is one of the later additions to the French Colonial Empire, although its connection with France dates back as far as the 17th century. The nominal protectorate was, however, only established by the treaty of December 17, 1885, which also arranged for the occupation of the Bay of Diego Suarez by the French, whilst a decree of May 4, 1888, first defined Diego Suarez, Nossi-Bé, and Ste. Marie de Madagascar as actual possessions and placed them under the authority of a single Governor. Thus, French sovereignty, even over a small part of the island, can only be said to date from the latter period. During the 11 years which have elapsed since that time events have followed each other very rapidly, the Hova Government has been entirely supplanted, and the whole country may practically now be said to be under French dominion.

*Previous history in relation with France.*

Though so recent an acquisition, Madagascar is attracting a very large share of the attention now devoted to colonial matters in France. French capital, reputed to be somewhat shy of colonial undertakings, is beginning to find in it a fresh outlet, and the tide of emigration, never very strong in France, has, up to a certain



point, turned in the direction of the island. Nevertheless, a very considerable proportion of the colonists, small traders, &c., who have during the last few years established themselves in Malagasy territory, are natives either of Mauritius or Réunion.

Military  
force.

From the general point of view, as much political as economic, the results obtained up to last year were, on the whole, somewhat negative. The subjugation of the Hovas and the suppression of the large and small revolts which had broken out, had occasioned the expenditure of large sums of money and necessitated the maintenance of a considerable number of troops in the island. The military element has already been somewhat reduced.

General  
Gallieni's  
report.

According to the latest figures given in the Colonial Budget for 1899, the number of troops is at present 11,305. Though isolated difficulties with the natives, usually caused, it is said, by the action of irresponsible colonists, still occur, the need for active intervention of this order appears to be gradually passing away, and the outlook, politically, seems more promising.

Notwithstanding this fact, General Gallieni, whose valuable report, published in the "Journal Officiel," forms, together with the "Immigrant's Guide," published under his supervision, the latest authoritative source of information, shows himself decidedly averse to the diminution of the military force for the present.

Colonial  
Budget.

Though the island undoubtedly possesses important natural riches, it seems improbable that, for some time to come, it will rank as a paying investment.

The total cost of the colony to the mother country during the current year is estimated in the Colonial Budget at 997,267*l.*, divided into two heads: military expenditure, 925,980*l.*; and direct subsidy to the Local Budget, 71,287*l.*\* The Reporter on the Budget, however, appears to foresee the probable necessity for further supplementary votes for military purposes. Indeed, these in 1898 amounted to about 7,000,000 fr. On the supposition that an increase in trade, proportionate to that of the last two years, takes place during the present year, the mother country would appear to be expending about 1,000,000*l.* sterling for the sake of a market worth, in round numbers, 900,000*l.* The situation, however, shows an appreciable improvement, but it must be borne in mind that the great increase in French trade during the latter half of 1897-98 was due to the new customs tariff, and that for the future its growth can scarcely be expected to continue with equal rapidity.

Local Budget.

On turning to the Local Budget a very much more favourable state of things is found to exist. Both in 1896-97 the revenue (including the subsidy) was in excess of the expenditure, the surplus for the latter year being over 60,000*l.* For 1898 the exact figures are not yet available. The "Quinzaine Coloniale," however, in a recent number estimated the revenue at about 499,000*l.*,

\* The cost of the local militia about equalled the subsidy in 1899 according to the estimates. The subsidy is, however, purely for administrative purposes.

and the expenditure at about 431,000*l.*, leaving a surplus roughly equal to the annual subsidy. Should these figures prove correct, the colony may be regarded, as far as purely local affairs are concerned, as self-supporting. But it must be borne in mind that for the future the customs receipts will necessarily show a serious falling-off. The subsidy can, nevertheless, avowedly not be dispensed with. Hitherto, in consequence of the difficulties attending the subjugation of the country little has been done administratively with regard to its development. A certain amount of road and canal-making has been entrusted to private enterprise, but there appears to be little doubt that the major part of such works will have to be carried out by the local authorities themselves.

Means of  
communication.

In his report General Gallieni goes into the matter very thoroughly. He indicates a complete network of roads, whose construction it would be desirable to undertake immediately, to replace the mere paths which appear at present to be the sole means of internal communication between the various centres.

Further, he proceeds to mention the building of a railway from Tamatave to Tananarive (Antananarivo), the improvement of the ports of Tamatave and Majunga, the development of the telegraph system, &c. These works he estimates at a cost of about 50,000,000 fr. This sum he proposes to raise by means of a loan, the service of which would be covered by the surplus revenue, conditionally upon the annual subsidy from the Home Government being continued.\*

Tamatave-  
Tananarive  
Railway.

The area of Madagascar is over 590,000 square kiloms., and its population has been variously estimated at from 5,000,000 to 6,000,000. The most numerous and intelligent race are the Hovas, a people of Malay origin. The other five tribes, Sakalaves, Betsiloes, &c., are of negro blood.

Area and  
population.

The whole centre of the island is mountainous, rising in places to a height of 9,000 feet. Round the coast, however, runs a belt of low-lying, unhealthy, but very fertile land. Up to the present comparatively little is known respecting the mineral wealth of the island.

Physical  
character-  
istics.

Gold in small quantities is known to exist in many districts, and in certain parts of the colony it has been worked for some time. Hitherto, however, scarcely any lodes have been discovered, the little mining which is carried on is almost exclusively for alluvial gold, which is not found in very remunerative quantities.

Gold mining.

Iron exists throughout a great portion of the island, and has been worked and smelted by the natives for local purposes, such as primitive tools, &c. The only known copper mines appear to have been worked out by the natives. Lead, tin, zinc, antimony, mercury, platinum, nickel, and sulphur are said to exist, whilst it seems to be a debatable question whether extensive coal-fields do not exist in the north-western district.

Other metals.

\* A Bill has now been laid before Parliament for a loan of 60,000,000 fr. (2,400,000*l.*) to be devoted to the construction of railways, lighthouses, roads, telegraph lines, &c.

**Forests.** The forests are large and produce a variety of valuable kinds of timber, including ebony, rosewood, mahogany, &c. Little has, however, been done towards developing this source of wealth.

**Rubber and raffa.** Midway between purely agricultural products and forest products may be placed rubber and raffa.\* The former is one of the most important products of the island. The rubber-producing plants and vines exist throughout all the forests though their number has been greatly diminished, notably in the Fort-Dauphin, Fenerife, and Foulpointe districts, by the reckless manner in which they have been destroyed with a view to immediate profit, the consequence being that the exportation has fallen off seriously during the last few years. The raffa palm grows generally not further than 15 or 20 kiloms. from and 25 or 50 metres above the sea.

**Agricultural products.** Vanilla, coffee, and cocoa are somewhat extensively grown, besides tobacco, rice, and manioc, the two latter forming the staple food of the natives. Both vegetable wax and beeswax are collected in considerable quantities in the forests, whilst the breeding of cattle is extensively carried on.

**Live-stock and hides.** The exportation of hides has been very large. The herds, however, are said to have suffered greatly during the late insurrection, so much so that various administrative measures for their protection have been found necessary, the beneficial results of which already showed themselves during 1898, as will be seen hereafter.

**Commercial centre. Principal ports.** The capital of the Island is Tananarive, called by the natives Antananarivo, a town of about 100,000 inhabitants. The chief commercial centre is Tamatave, a port upon the east coast. There are in all about 20 ports and roadsteads on the Malagasy coast, for the most part on the eastern side of the island. The following information regarding them may be extracted from "Trade and Shipping of Africa":—

"*Helleville*, in the island of Nossi Bé, is a very important centre of trade. The harbour is good and the steamers of the Messageries call there twice a month, in addition to which it is the starting point of the coasting trade with the smaller western ports of the island, carried on by means of a small steamer, in connection with the mail from France. The trade along this coast, as far as Majunga, is in the hands of Indians, who deal in English and German goods, and Bombay textiles. There are two important German trading firms established at Nossi Bé.

"*Majunga*.—Owing to its situation on the Mozambique Channel and to its excellent harbour, Majunga is destined to become one of the starting points of the Antananarivo trade route, and to have a commercial future of its own. The waterway of the Betsiboka River is practicable for small steamers as far as Suberbieville, 200 miles from the coast, for nine months in the year. From that point to the central plateau the road is being improved, and trade will grow as security of communication in the island increases. The geographical position of Majunga marks it as a centre of trade with South Africa, which will

\* A palm-tree fibre.

become an outlet for the natural produce of this island, such as live-stock, colonial goods, &c. Many trading steamers visit Majunga, both those from the Zanzibar coast, and those which arrive yearly from Bombay in March with the north-east monsoon and return to India with products of the colony with the south-west monsoon in August. These vessels are generally of from 90 to 120 tons, and from 25 to 30 of them touch at Majunga every year, while other smaller vessels connect the port with Nossi Bé, Zanzibar, the Comoro Islands, Morondava, and Nossi Vé, and a smaller steamer of the Messageries line makes a monthly double trip between Nossi Bé and Nossi Vé (St. Augustine's Bay), calling at Majunga and Maintirano.

*"Other Western Ports."*—To the south of Cape St. André, in the Mailaka district are several small ports, of which the chief are Tombolon and Maintirano, which once carried on a considerable trade by sailing vessels with the African coast. These and the smaller ports of Manambolo, Tsimanandrafozana, and Morondava are solely worked by Indians, who export to the German houses of Nossi Bé, gold dust, wax, rubber, and woods and essences from the neighbouring forests.

"Between the Mangoky and the Onilahy (St. Augustine River) lies the district of Fiherena, where rich meadows and forests are found, and the natives cultivate maize and the bean known as 'Cape peas.' Gold dust, rubber, wax, and tortoise-shell are also exported, and this region once furnished quantities of orchilla, a dye moss, the collection of which has been almost entirely abandoned. The imports of the West Coast consist chiefly of cloths, cotton goods, glassware, rum, gunpowder, and iron household utensils, and the majority of these goods are of German origin. At one time the trade of the West Coast was almost entirely in the hands of the French, but, about the year 1870, English, German, and American houses, and many Indian and Arab traders settled themselves at certain points occupied by the Hovas.

*"Diego Suarez"* is a place of call for the steamers of the Messageries line, and since October 1, 1896, has been the starting point of the branch line for Mozambique, Beira, and Lourenço Marques. The Havre S.S. Co. and other vessels carrying cattle to Mauritius and Réunion, also touch at Diego Suarez, and at the time of the north-east monsoon many sailing vessels from Bombay bring supplies for the Indian traders.

*"Vohémar."*—The export trade of this port is principally in cattle, conveyed on a small steamer belonging to a French company, and carried on by Indian and Chinese traders, who penetrate far into the interior, bearing on the backs of native porters cotton goods, common in design and glaring in colour, household utensils, glassware, common cutlery, imitation pearls, yarn, needles, &c., which they barter for rice, gum, beeswax, rubber, skins, woods, and "rafia."

*"St. Marie de Madagascar."*—This island, facing the little port of Tintingue and a dozen miles from the mainland, has a good

anchorage, and is also a place of call for the Messageries steamers.

*"Tamatave.*—This is the commercial centre and principal trading port of the whole island. Two lines of reef protect it from the high sea, thus affording a comparatively safe anchorage.

"There are a certain number of French merchants established at Tamatave, but English, American, German and Swiss houses do also a fair amount of business; Indian traders are numerous, and as for the Chinese, they have more than a hundred establishments, where they chiefly sell rice and other provisions used by Europeans. In view of the increase in the number of these Asiatics, the Government has taken measures in the form of taxation to minimise the effect of their competition. Improvements of various kinds are being carried out and contemplated at the port of Tamatave, including the construction of jetties lit by electric light, and sheds for storing purposes. The steamers touching at Tamatave are those of the various French companies, and the Oswald line of Hamburg, besides numerous sailing vessels and schooners connecting Tamatave with the lesser ports of the north and south.

*"Andévoranto.*—Situated 100 kiloms. south of Tamatave and not protected like that port by coral reefs, the export trade (chiefly ox-hides and 'rafia') of Andévoranto can only be carried on when the state of the sea permits lighters to pass the bar and load the vessels at anchor outside, *i.e.*, during about eight months in the year. This port has nevertheless a certain commercial status, it being the point where the trade route from Tamatave to Antananarivo leaves the coast, and about 10 trading firms are established or represented there.

*"Vatomandry.*—After Tamatave this is the chief port of entry for textiles destined for the interior. Vatomandry is connected with the capital Antananarivo by a route along which goods are conveyed for 60 c. per kilo.; whereas between Tamatave and Antananarivo the charge is 1 fr. per kilo. As at Andévoranto the bad roadstead compels many vessels to unload at Tamatave.

*"Other Eastern Ports.*—The absence of direct communication with the two ports of Mananjary and Fort Dauphin is the chief cause of the decadence of trade in those parts. The greater portion of the exports from these two provinces goes to London, while some of it is conveyed by the Castle line to Hamburg. The ports of Farafangana and Vangaindrano are visited by sailing vessels from Mauritius, and the former is now the station of a Resident."

Percentage of  
trade.

It may be remarked that out of the whole general trade of the island in 1897, 52·2 per cent. passed through Tamatave, 15·1 per cent. through Majunga, 8·8 per cent. through Diego Suarez, 7·5 per cent. through Nossi-Bé, 5·1 per cent. through Vatomandry, and 4 per cent. through Mananjary.

Influence of  
customs  
riff.

It is very evident that foreign, and in particular British, trade could scarcely have suffered more severely than has been the case

since the imposition of the new customs duties of which the most onerous are those upon textiles.\* The new tariff was instituted in July, 1897. In May, 1898, however, the duties on textiles were again raised to the rates given below.

In order to form an approximate estimate of the altered situation it appears useless to go back further than 1896 since the trade statistics, previous to that year, with the exception of 1895, are said to be somewhat incomplete.

Cotton textiles are by far the most important class of goods **Principal imports.** imported. Next, though far behind, follows spirits, of which the consumption by the natives is said to be making such rapid strides as to necessitate preventive measures. Wines, coal, various textiles, rice, machinery, and cast-iron goods are amongst the other notable imports, their value in 1897 running in the above order.

The latest general figures are found in General Gallieni's report which shows that the countries doing most trade with the colony are France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States.

In 1896 the total value of the goods imported into the colony **Imports in 1896.** was 553,977*l.* French and colonial merchandise amounted to 218,406*l.*, including 72,488*l.* for textiles. The imports from Great Britain and British possessions are, for that year, made to include those from Manila to the extent of 53,070*l.* out of a total of 232,610*l.*, leaving a net British trade of 179,540*l.*, in which British textiles represented 128,763*l.* The value of goods imported from Germany is given at 21,346*l.*, whilst the imports from the United States were estimated at 28,675*l.* These figures are interesting as showing the development of the import trade under normal tariff conditions. It may, perhaps, here be noted that in the "Statistiques Coloniales pour l'Année 1896," published by the French Ministry of Colonies, the imports from Great Britain and British possessions into Madagascar are estimated at a value of 222,595*l.*

\* The duties on cotton textiles per 100 kilos. are as follows :—

Weight per 100 Metres.	Number of Threads in 5 Millimetres Square.	Amount.
		Francs.
Above 13 kilos. .. ..	35 and below	77
	36 above	118
From 11 to 13 kilos. ..	35 below	87
	36 above	131
9 11 " ..	35 below	111
	36 above	172
7 9 " ..	35 below	131
	36 above	230
5 7 " ..	35 below	139
	36 above	300
3 5 " ..	35 below	287
	36 above	550
Less than 3 kilos. .. ..	..	620

no mention of Manila being made. The same publication also places the imports from the United States at over 90,000*l.*, of which almost 80,000*l.* are due to the cotton textile trade. This circumstance is, however, accounted for by the fact that both during that and the following year a very large proportion of the American goods were imported via England.

Value of  
imports, 1897.

The year 1897 marked the transition stage between the old and the new systems. The total imports for that year were estimated at 727,085*l.*\* Of this amount the trade of France and her colonies absorbed 411,952*l.*,† including textiles to a value of 140,925*l.* Thus imports from French sources increased during that year by 193,546*l.* over 1896. In that year the trade with the British Empire in general is made to include a special item for Mauritius of 14,615*l.* out of a total of 206,624*l.*, whilst Mauritius is also separately credited with imports to the value of 38,445*l.* The value of British cotton textiles appears to have been 116,629*l.* The comparatively slight difference in this respect between 1896 and 1897 is due to the fact that merchants trading with the United Kingdom were able to accumulate a large stock of cotton goods before the new duties came into force. Imports from Germany were valued at 32,442*l.*, and those from the United States at 6,304*l.*, plus about 88,000*l.* worth of textiles imported via England. It will thus be observed that though France profited very considerably, British and American trade continued to hold their own up to a certain point, as far as cotton textiles were concerned, notwithstanding the fact that the new duties, in their first form, were in force during almost the whole of the latter half of 1897.

Foreign  
countries.

Effect of new  
tariff.

In 1898 the new tariff began to show its real effect. The statistics for that year are as a whole found in General Gallieni's report, whilst the classification of the trade, according to types of merchandise, has just reached France in the "*Annuaire de Madagascar*" for 1899. The figures given in the text are mostly drawn from General Gallieni's report. These are, as net totals, admitted not to be absolutely exact. Such serious discrepancies are, however, to be noticed between them and the figures published in the "*Annuaire*," particularly as regards the British cotton textile trade, that it is impossible to arrive at any exact appreciation. It need only be remarked that, according to the "*Annuaire*," the cotton textiles imported from Great Britain and British colonies in 1898 amounted to a little over 17,000*l.*

Out of a total import trade of 857,069*l.* France and her colonies provided goods to a value of 640,316*l.*, including textiles to the value of 247,366*l.* The net increase of imports from France and

\* General Gallieni's report gives 15,558,918 fr. as the total value of imports. This is, however, manifestly a typographical error. The "*Emigrants Guide*" published under his supervision and the report on the Colonial Budget for 1899 both give 18,358,918 fr. as the figure.

† The above figures are taken from General Gallieni's report; those in Table I from the report on the Colonial Budget for 1899. This publication shows a somewhat larger proportion of the imports during 1897 as being of foreign origin.

her colonies as compared to 1897 amounted to 228,364*l*. The whole of the imports from foreign countries amounted to only 216,753*l*., whilst Great Britain and her colonies' share of the trade of the colony was estimated at 94,851*l*., including cotton textiles to a value of 29,306*l*. The imports from Germany for the year were valued at slightly over 40,000*l*.

On comparing the years 1896 and 1898 it will be found that British trade, taking the figures given by General Gallieni as basis for the first year, has fallen off by about 46·6 per cent., or, if the figures published by the Ministry of Colonies be taken, by 57·3 per cent., whilst the British cotton textile trade has diminished by about 77·2 per cent., and even a far higher percentage of decrease must be counted if the above-mentioned "Annuaire de Madagascar" figures be accepted as correct.

The following table shows the value of British goods imported for each of the five years 1894–98 according to the statistics lately published by the British customs authorities:—

IMPORTS from the United Kingdom, 1894–98.

Principal and other Articles.	Value.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Apparel and haberdashery ... ..	1,598	1,771	1,972	2,644	5,702
Biscuit and bread ... ..	415	629	1,051	2,045	595
Coal, cinders and fuel ... ..	1,203	165	2,866	10,487	8,261
Cottons, entered by the yard ... ..	92,896	43,352	110,492	108,080	4,869
" " at value ... ..	4,509	2,520	6,169	3,777	1,382
Machinery and millwork ... ..	1,055	224	2,077	6,737	490
Metals: iron, wrought and unwrought ... ..	6,347	7,223	8,155	6,061	7,024
Milk, condensed ... ..	383	1,015	195	177	...
Provisions (including meat) ... ..	1,213	1,255	1,358	1,427	410
Stationery, other than paper ... ..	1,002	867	1,311	2,106	490
Parcel post ... .. (Number)	129	84	89	186	48
All other articles ... ..	11,187	7,405	11,232	14,883	5,353
Total ... ..	121,937	66,400	146,966	158,610	31,604

The principal exports from Madagascar are rubber, hides, raffia, cattle, wax, vanilla, gold, preserved meats, and timber. Exports.

The export trade, however, is not nearly so important as the import trade. Its value in 1896 was 142,809*l*. Of this, 41,852*l*. worth of products went to France and French colonies and 100,957*l*. to other countries, the share of the United Kingdom in the latter amounting to 61,075*l*. In 1897 the general exports had increased to 172,976*l*.,\* notwithstanding the disturbed condition of certain parts of the island. France and her colonies received 60,061*l*. worth of produce and foreign countries 112,915*l*. The exports to the United Kingdom in particular attained a value of 54,848*l*., a falling-off as compared with the previous year of 6,227*l*. The exports from Madagascar to Germany amounted to 45,644*l*., and showed, on the contrary, an increase of over 20,000*l*. In 1898 the value of the produce exported had further risen to 196,435*l*., whilst the exports to France and her colonies\* had reached a maximum of 89,584*l*. In considering

\* Figures taken from General Gallieni's Report.



these figures it must, however, be borne in mind that the present year (1899) is the first during which the island has been in a tranquil state, and that should it continue so it is not improbable that the immediate future may show a much more accentuated rate of increase.

According to the British Customs returns the exports from Madagascar to the United Kingdom for the five years ending in 1898 were as follows:—

### EXPORTS to the United Kingdom, 1894–98.

Principal and other Articles.	Value.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Caoutchouc ... ..	70,397	55,006	42,868	12,137	10,306
Drugs, unenumerated ... ..	1,223	1,581	668	4,126	2,821
Gum, of all sorts ... ..	745	597	262	488	283
Hemp, dressed or undressed ... ..	...	...	...	927	...
" other similar vegetable substances, unenumerated ... ..	21,834	37,680	16,686	14,372	2,803
Hides, raw ... ..	18,172	17,895	12,190	10,052	1,742
Nuts and kernels, for expressing oil therefrom ... ..	...	2,821	...	...	...
Skins, goat, undressed ... ..	40	408	185	1,194	...
" sheep, undressed ... ..	1,709	1,505	1,062	955	...
Sugar, unrefined ... ..	2,034	576	...	...	...
Wax ... ..	12,577	17,410	14,203	17,704	9,005
Wood: furniture woods and hard woods (except mahogany) ... ..	290	530	900	1,112	...
All other articles ... ..	8,571	2,996	3,511	4,792	3,923
Total ... ..	137,592	139,005	92,535	67,859	30,890

Development  
of export  
trade.

As regards the commodities already mentioned as the chief exports, the quantity of rubber exported in 1898 was about 25 per cent. less than that shipped in 1896, though, owing to the rise in prices the value had only sunk by about 1,400*l*. Notwithstanding the adverse circumstances already referred to the exportation of live-stock shows, during the three years under consideration, a steady increase both as regards quantity and value. The cattle are principally sent to the Transvaal, to Réunion, to Mauritius, and to Mozambique. Timber has also increased steadily, though the amount shipped is still very small, its value being, for 1896, about 3,000*l*., and for 1898 about 5,000*l*. The quantity of wax exported in 1897 was slightly greater than in 1896, whilst the value increased very considerably. In 1898, on the other hand, there was a serious diminution in quantity, though the value, proportionately, appears to have remained about stationary. The number of hides shipped had decreased continuously. In 1897 the value was also lower than in 1896, but in 1898, owing to the fact that a much greater proportion of large skins was exported, it had again risen considerably. The gold output appears to have grown though still very small. The preserved meat industry, though only reaching a total export value of about 15,600*l*., has grown rapidly. Rafia, in 1897, had fallen off very considerably in quantity as compared with 1896, though higher prices reigned. In 1898 a recovery in quantity took place

accompanied, however, by a falling-off in value. The exportation of vanilla was three times as great in 1897 as in 1896 both as regards quantity and value. In 1898 the quantity had, in comparison with the previous year, decreased slightly, and the value showed a serious diminution.

The total shipping movement of Malagasy ports in 1897 <sup>Shipping movement</sup> amounted to 3,691 vessels with a tonnage of 827,531 tons. The vessels flying the French flag numbered 2,069 and their tonnage was 604,194 tons; the British, 1,477 vessels with a tonnage of 169,249 tons; and the German 99 vessels with a tonnage of 42,127 tons. In 1898 the number of vessels had increased to 6,061, whilst the total tonnage had only grown to 879,362 tons. During that year the French flag was borne by 3,497 ships of a total burthen of 734,068 tons. The British ships were 2,186 in number and their tonnage 78,053 tons, and the German 111 with a tonnage of 39,305 tons. It is not mentioned in General Gallieni's report from which these figures are extracted whether purely coasting trade is included.

In 1896 the value of goods imported under different flags was as follows:—French, 7,200,000 fr.; British, 5,900,000 fr.; German, 600,000 fr. In 1897 the figures were: French, 11,600,000 fr.; British, 5,200,000 fr.; German, 1,100,000 fr. The remainder of the imports were made in Norwegian, Arab, Danish, Swedish, and American bottoms. In the matter of exports the values were: French, 1,700,000 fr.; British, 1,500,000 fr.; German, 300,000 fr.; and in 1897: French, 2,300,000 fr.; British, 800,000 fr.; German, 1,100,000 fr. Neither for exports nor for imports are similar figures for 1898 available. From the tonnage statistics given above, however, it would appear that the shipping trade is fast becoming a French monopoly. Communication with Europe is, in the main, secured by three French lines: the Messageries Maritimes, the Havre Peninsular, and the Chargeurs Réunis. It is incidentally mentioned in General Gallieni's report that the Castle line ceased its operations in 1898, and the Deutsch Ost Afrika steamers now only touch rarely at Malagasy ports.

The freights from Bordeaux to Tamatave and Majunga are <sup>Freights.</sup> 40 fr., plus 10 per cent. per cubic metre, or per 700 kilos. The Chargeurs Réunis Line charge, from Havre to Fort Dauphin, Mananjary, and Vatomandry, 60 fr., plus 10 per cent.; and to Tamatave, 40 fr., plus 10 per cent. per cubic metre, or 700 kilos.; whilst the rates quoted from Marseilles are 50 fr. per cubic metre, or per ton, equally to Nossi-Bé, Diego Suarez, Tamatave, and Majunga.

During the last two years the Governor-General has taken a <sup>Administrative measures for furtherance of trade</sup> number of steps with a view to promote the general commercial activity of the colony. Consultative Chambers of Commerce, destined to keep the Administration informed regarding economic matters, have been instituted in various centres. The hitherto somewhat severe forest laws have, in certain regions, been allowed to fall partially into abeyance. In order to foster internal trade, many of the markets which existed previous to the late insur-

rection have been re-established. Finally, for the protection of European commerce against Asiatic and African competition, from which it has suffered rather severely, a system of special licenses for traders of these descriptions has been introduced.

Commercial  
situation.

M. Henri Pensa, a well-known writer on colonial matters, calls attention in a recent number of the "*Revue Politique et Parlementaire*" to the divergent views held with regard to the present commercial situation of Madagascar. He quotes in the first place the opinions of two French business men, who maintain that the pacification of the island is far from complete, and that the plague and the absence of practicable roads put a stop to the possibility of successful trading. "*A dire vrai, l'administration coloniale n'aboutit à rien, ni à la pacification, ni à la création d'un réseau de routes, ni à la concession ou à l'entreprise de voies ferrées, ni même à l'établissement d'un ensemble de lois et règlements sur lesquels on pourrait compter. . . . Quant aux mines d'or et aux autres mines, n'en parlez plus.*"

In contra-distinction to this melancholy outlook, M. Pensa quotes the opinion of an official who considers the island now to be entirely pacified, but this he adds is not the opinion of the British Vice-Consul, who in his last report describes the trade of Madagascar as "alarmingly poor," owing to a variety of reasons. In his report recently published, Mr. Turner, Acting Vice-Consul at Antananarivo, writes that over-importation, increased competition, impoverished condition of the natives as the natural result of war, rebellion, famine, forced labour, taxes, and the reaction of the market after a term of fictitious prices serve to make up a "tout ensemble" which explains the present situation. The prices of most of the former staple articles of merchandise are now prohibitive on account of the heavy protective duties, while on the other hand, French made goods are dear, and not in good demand.

Referring to agriculture, Mr. Turner says that there is no doubt whatever that the soil of Madagascar has been overpraised. The rapidity with which certain forms of vegetation spring up luxuriantly, is due rather to the forcing power of the climate than to any special richness of the soil; and in conclusion he says that Madagascar is fairly rich in minerals, but the French mode of extracting them from the earth does not commend itself to people who have been accustomed to Transvaal, Australian and American methods.

Economic  
future.

In his forecast of the economic future of the island, General Gallieni, whilst discounting dreams of inordinate wealth, deems the hope of reasonable prosperity fully justified. Owing to its physical conformation he finds Madagascar eminently suited for diverse types of colonists. At the same time he lays great stress on the paramount importance of the labour question, advocating the introduction into general use of the simpler kinds of agricultural machinery. He further mentions sheep-farming as an industry capable of considerable development. With regard to the progress made by French trade in particular, he remarks:—

"Our manufacturers and merchants have given proof of real initiative. Happily seconded by the protective measures taken by the Government, the first have transformed their machinery in order to manufacture textiles in keeping with the native taste, whilst the second have founded important establishments in Madagascar which appear satisfied with the results of their operations. It is true that beside these there are merchants who complain of the stagnation of trade; these, for the most part, being grouped together in the great centres, Tamatave, Majunga, Tananarivo, Mananjary, Vatomandry, are present in numbers out of proportion with the commercial capabilities of the region, because their want of resources confines their operations to too narrow a circle. This, however, does not diminish the value of the results attained. In the matter of imports, France to-day holds the first place in Madagascar, and her market there is worth 16,000,000 fr.\*"

## COMORO ISLANDS.

The importance of the Comoro Islands rests more upon the value of their position at the mouth of the Straits of Mozambique from a strategic point of view than upon their commercial worth, which at present is extremely small.

The archipelago, besides a number of islets, includes Mayotte, the Great Comoro, Moheli, and Anjouan. Mayotte has been a French colony since 1843, whilst the remaining three became French Protectorates, administered by the Governor of Mayotte, in virtue of the Treaties of January 6, and April 21 and 26, 1886.

According to M. Petit's "Organisation des Colonies Fran- Area and  
caises" the area of Mayotte is 366 square kiloms., that of the population.  
Great Comoro, 1,002 square kiloms.; that of Moheli, 231 square  
kiloms.; and that of Anjouan, 373 square kiloms.; whilst the  
respective populations are, nearly, 9,000, 50,000, 9,000, and 12,900.  
There are but few European residents, the inhabitants being  
mostly of Malagasy, Negro, and Arab blood. Whilst Mayotte  
has long been entirely subjected to French dominion, the inhabi-  
tants of the other islands, encouraged, no doubt, by their nominal  
chiefs, the Sultans, have shown a turbulent spirit which has  
frequently necessitated the armed intervention of the French  
authorities.

Neither from an economic nor from a general point of view is there much to be said about this small group of islands. The climate is similar to that of their important neighbour, Climate, &c.  
Madagascar, and they are mountainous and of volcanic origin. The chief industry is found in the production of sugar, which, however, does not reach any very marked development. There is only one port worthy of note, which is at Dzaudai, the seat of government, situated upon a small island opposite M'sapéré, the

\* "Journal Officiel," June 3 1899.

principal commercial centre on the mainland of Mayotte. Beyond this there are none but mere creeks suited only to vessels of very light draught.

Local and  
Colonial  
Budgets.

The collective receipts and expenditure of the local budgets of the four islands were estimated, for 1899, to balance at a little under 20,000*l*. Mayotte appears also in the Colonial Budget estimates for the same year for a sum of 1,780*l*.

Trade.

Whilst M. Petit remarks that these islands will undoubtedly attract French capital when their resources become better known in the mother country, their commercial value appears insignificant at present, and the statistical information with regard to trade is of a somewhat meagre description. It is to be presumed that the trade of the whole group is included in the figures given in French statistics under the heading "Mayotte."

Imports.  
1888 and  
1896.

The principal imports are textiles, flour, hardware, firearms, &c. In 1888 the value of imports was 21,027*l*. Of this amount France and her colonies provided goods worth 9,372*l*., whilst the trade with foreign countries was estimated at 11,655*l*. In 1896, the latest year for which complete figures are available, the situation was reversed, as the imports from France and her colonies reached a value of 20,793*l*., and those from foreign countries only a value of 5,841*l*. out of a total of 26,634*l*. Thus it will be seen that, whilst the whole import trade had increased during the nine years by 5,607*l*., that of France and her colonies had risen by no less than 11,421*l*., and that of foreign countries had, on the contrary, decreased by 5,814*l*., or nearly 50 per cent. No detailed statistics have been issued enabling the trade of the United Kingdom with these islands to be ascertained.

1898.

The "Office Colonial" has lately published the returns for the last 10 months of 1898, those of the first two months being stated to have been lost in a cyclone which visited the islands early in the year. According to these figures, in the ten months the imports from France and French colonies were worth 10,572*l*., and those from foreign countries 4,964*l*., making a total of 15,536*l*., which, admitting the imports of the first two months to have been in proportion, would give a total for the year of about 18,125*l*., or a notable decline since 1896.

Exports.  
1888 and  
1896.

The principal products exported are sugar (averaging, in ordinary years, from 6,000 to 8,000 tons per annum), vanilla, rum, coffee, and hides (mainly from Anjouan). In 1888 the value of exports was: to France and her colonies, 37,021*l*.; to foreign countries, 4,265*l*., making together a total of 41,286*l*. In 1896 the corresponding figures were: total, 47,757*l*.; France and French colonies, 46,564*l*.; and foreign countries, 1,193*l*. The general export trade of the colony had, therefore, risen in value during the nine years by 6,471*l*., and that with France and French colonies by 9,543*l*., or more than 25 per cent.; whilst that with foreign countries had fallen off by 3,072*l*., or about 72 per cent. The figures for the last 10 months of 1898, which alone are available, show the exports during that period to have been worth 33,478*l*. The comparison made use of in the case of

1898.

imports cannot be instituted in this case, as the exports consisting mainly of agricultural products, it is probable that the cyclone mentioned above was responsible for a considerable diminution.

To sum up it may be said that French trade, in this as in other colonies, appears to be superseding that of all other countries.

### *French Somaliland.*

The port of Obock was acquired by the French from the Sultan of Tajourah in 1862 by purchase, but it was not until 1884 that the possession was turned to any practical account, it being made a coaling station for French vessels on their way to the Far East. It was also in 1884 that the French Protectorate over Tajourah and the neighbouring districts was established.

The frontier between British and French Somalilands runs inland from the Wells of Hadu, between Zeila and Djibouti, in the direction of Harrar, an important Ethiopian centre of trade between the coast and the interior. The other frontiers, namely, to the south, towards the Galla country; to the west, towards the Shoa Highlands and Abyssinia proper; and to the north, towards Erythrea, do not appear to be very distinctly defined, except in the case of the latter, where on the coast the limit of French influence is Cape Dumeira at the entrance to the Straits of Bab el Mandeb.

The area of the French sphere of influence is roughly estimated at about 120,000 square kiloms., and its population variously calculated at from 50,000 to 200,000, whilst the territory actually administered as a colony is 12,000 square kiloms. in extent, and has a population of 22,000. Its present value appears to depend more upon its situation from a political point of view than upon its economic capabilities. The possession of the Gulf of Tajourah insures to France a certain amount of political influence at the entrance to the Red Sea. As yet, however, little seems to have been done to develop the colony in this respect, although it is stated in the report on the Colonial Budget for 1899 that a sum of about 7,000,000 fr. has already been expended there.

The seat of Government has, comparatively recently, been transferred from Obock to Djibouti on the southern shore of the Gulf of Tajourah. This change has been effected mainly on account of the greater harbour facilities which are afforded by the latter place. The town has grown somewhat rapidly since, and though it has only been in existence for about five years, it already boasts a population of 13,000, including 1,000 Europeans. It has also become the head of one amongst the various caravan routes between Harrar and the coast.

With regard to the general trade of French Somaliland, no French statistics are available. Commercial relations, both by sea and with the interior, are still in their infancy, and by far the

greater part of the exports and imports of the hinterland pass through Zeila, Berbera, and Bulhar, in British Somaliland.

Djibouti-  
Harrar  
Railway.

Two factors, however, appear likely to assist Djibouti in competing with these ports in the future. The first and most important is the construction of the railway to Harrar. The second is the building at Djibouti of a jetty 800 metres long, of which a good part has already been completed. The railway is being constructed by the Compagnie Internationale des Chemins de Fer Ethiopiens, with a share capital of 320,000*l.*, and an obligation capital of the nominal amount of 1,500,000*l.*, which, it is stated, will be sufficient for the construction of the railway from Djibouti to a point at the foot of a hill 70 kiloms. from Harrar. The rails have already been laid as far as kilom. 52, the bridge at Holl-Holl should be completed by December 1, and the line laid to kilom. 103 by January 31, 1900. According to the statements made by the company's officials, the line should be entirely finished by the end of 1900.

The following tables, lately published in the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries," form the only available information with regard to the exports and imports of French East Africa, and embrace the value of the commerce with Great Britain alone:—

#### BRITISH Trade, 1894-98.

##### IMPORTS into the United Kingdom.

Principal and other Articles.	Value.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Total value ... ..	...	...	240	436	...

##### EXPORTS from the United Kingdom.

##### PRODUCE and Manufactures of the United Kingdom.

Principal and other Articles.	Value.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Arms, ammunition, and military stores ...	...	18	...	1,412	2,658
Coal, cinders, and fuel ... ..	2,113	2,318	...	...	7,356
Cotton manufactures, entered by the yard ...	...	...	220	211	2,030
Cotton manufactures, entered at value ...	...	...	...	186	178
Metals: iron, wrought and unwrought ...	...	1,049	...	16	16,657
All other articles ... ..	35	450	...	62	192
Total ... ..	2,148	3,835	220	1,877	30,671

Whatever may be the eventual development of commercial relations with Shoa, Harrar, and the Galla country, it may safely be said that the protectorate is but little suited to colonisation in the ordinary acceptation of the term by reason of the climate and the aridity of the soil in the neighbourhood of the coast.

The administration of the country is, according to the latest figures, in the hands of 18 officials. It has just been decided to nominate a special governor, an innovation which does away with the combination of this post with that of diplomatic representative at the Court of Abyssinia. As a consequence of this change the subsidy granted by the mother country to the colony has for the present year been reduced from about 22,000*l.* to about 16,000*l.*

Communication with France is secured by means of the East African Messageries Maritimes Line, and by the same company's steamers plying to the Far East. The freights from Marseilles to Djibouti are 35 fr. per cubic metre, or ton. Goods weighing more than 1,000 kilos. per cubic metre are liable to an extra rate of 10 fr. per cubic metre.

A general system of taxation, including a new customs tariff, was put in force on May 1, 1899. Duties are now levied on spirits at the rate of 30 fr. per hectolitre for liquors under 50 degrees, 50 fr. from 50 to 70 degrees, and 100 fr. for liquors of 70 degrees and upwards. Wines also pay duties varying according to the quality. Rice, flour, dates, oil, and petroleum pay 2 fr.; durah and cereals, 1 fr.; manufactured tobacco, 25 fr.; raw tobacco and haschich, 10 fr.; all per 100 kilos.

Export dues are now levied on camels, 12 fr. per head; horses and mules, 16 fr. per head; donkeys, 6 fr. per head; oxen, 2 fr. per head, &c.; besides which, hides (except those sent to France) pay 50 fr. per 100.

### *Réunion.\**

The island of Réunion has been occupied by the French since the year 1638, and ranks, therefore, with Guiana and the French West Indies, amongst the older colonies dating from the first phase of French colonial enterprise. Its area is 2,600 square kiloms. and its population numbers about 170,000, being represented in the French Chamber by two deputies. The administrative capital and chief centre is St. Denis with about 30,000 inhabitants, whilst the other most important towns are St. Paul, St. Pierre, St. Louis, and St. Benoist, with populations varying from 26,500 to 11,500. The administrative division of the island consists of two "arrondissements" and nine "cantons" which are again subdivided into a number of communes and districts. The total number of officials of all classes is 904 amongst whom 24 hold distinctly administrative posts. The number of troops is 484. The total expenditure on the colony by the Home Government is set down in the French Colonial Budget for 1899 at 178,809*l.*, against which, however, must be placed a sum of nearly 5,500*l.* paid out of local revenue to the mother country. The state of the Local Government finances is extremely satisfactory. The local ordinary expenditure for 1898 was estimated at 147,635*l.* Thus, 320,000*l.* may be taken as in round number the annual average of the total expenditure. This represents nearly 2*l.* per head of the population.

\* The latest information with regard to the trade of Réunion will be found in Mr. Consul Bennett's Report for 1898, No. 2350 Annual Series.



With regard to the civil and police expenditure borne by the Home Government which amounts to about 35,000*l.*, it is proposed to transfer it to the Local Budget which will be relieved of the payment to the Colonial Budget and receive a direct subsidy of about 13,600*l.* The net increase of local expenditure proposed is therefore in round numbers between 15,000*l.* and 16,000*l.*

Railway and  
port.

One of the principal sources of expenditure lies in the subsidies required by the railway and port. During the last 11 years the payments by the Home Government under this head have averaged about 100,000*l.* per annum, whilst the charge in the Local Budget amounts to 6,336*l.* The need both for the railway and the port was undoubtedly very great. Of natural harbours, not a single one of any importance appears to exist, and all vessels were obliged to lie in the open roadstead loading and discharging by means of lighters, &c. The internal means of communication were equally bad. The island is very mountainous, and intersected by the beds of numerous torrents which rendered the various centres well nigh inaccessible and enhanced the cost of transport enormously. Under these circumstances it was decided in 1877 to make a port at Pointe des Galets and to construct a railway 127 kiloms. long from St. Pierre to St. Benoist viâ St. Denis, covering, along the coast, about three-fifths of the whole circumference of the island. The enterprise was entrusted to a company. The original expenditure of this company amounted to about 61,000,000 fr., the French Government guaranteeing the interest on the portion borrowed to the extent of about 100,000*l.* per annum. The railway was opened in 1882 and the port in 1886, but in 1887 the State was obliged to take over both and has worked them since at a very considerable loss. In the Special Budget for 1899 the expenses are estimated at 180,930*l.*, whilst the receipts are only expected to reach 75,247*l.* One of the chief difficulties which lies in the way of the successful development of this undertaking is the continued existence of the numerous landing stages round the coast, and it is hoped that, by gradually buying out the authorised owners of these constructions, the receipts may eventually be made to attain a more satisfactory figure.

General  
economic  
situation.

The general economic situation of Réunion presents many points of similarity to that existing in the French West Indian Islands. Here also sugar is the staple product and the colony has consequently suffered greatly from the crisis in that industry. It would, however, appear that the refiners rather than the planters have sustained the most serious losses. The latter in Réunion have devoted more attention to the growing of "secondary crops" than has been the case in the West Indian Islands.

Value of  
imports,  
1888-97.

In 1888 the value of imports into Réunion was 891,722*l.* divided as follows:—France and French colonies, 381,804*l.*; other countries, 509,918*l.* In 1897 out of a total value of 857,888*l.*, the goods from France and French colonies amounted to 596,619*l.* and those from other countries 261,269*l.* In view of the considerable variations which had taken place in the value of the import trade

during the last four of the intervening years it may safely be said that the total value of imports had remained stationary, the most notable fact being the practical reversal of the origin of the major part of the merchandise. The detailed French statistics for 1896 show the principal imports to have been:—cereals and flour, 245,000*l.*; textiles, 110,000*l.*; spirits, 91,000*l.*; animal products, 87,000*l.*; metal goods, 50,000*l.*; and dried and salted fish, 35,000*l.* The above values are approximate. No special French figures with regard to imports from the United Kingdom are available.

Principal imports, 1896.

A few comparative figures with regard to the quantities of the various colonial products exported in 1896 and 1897 respectively are given in the "Quinzaine Coloniale." The exportation of sugar which was about 45,000,000 kilos. during the season 1896-97 only reached 31,000,000 kilos. in 1897-98. A somewhat higher average price, however, in a measure compensated for the lower figure. Most of the so-called secondary exports showed a decided advance. Vanilla increased from about 69,000 kilos. to nearly 100,000 kilos. Coffee from nearly 45,000 kilos. to nearly 83,000 kilos. With regard to this product the local consumption is stated to be far more important than the export trade. The average price of coffee is about 3 fr. the kilo. Tapioca had increased, and the same could be said of potatoes in which a considerable trade is done with Mauritius. On the other hand tobacco and essential oils for perfumery had fallen-off.

Quantities of products exported, 1896-97.

The total value of exports from Réunion in 1888 was 616,771*l.* of which products to the value of 463,963*l.* were sent to France and French colonies, and 152,808*l.* to foreign countries. In 1897 the figures were respectively 731,980*l.*, 714,900*l.*, and 17,080*l.* It will, therefore, be observed that the total export trade had increased in the 10 years by 115,209*l.*, and that with France and French colonies by 250,937*l.*, whilst that with foreign countries had diminished by no less than 135,728*l.* It may be noted that the imports from foreign countries, though greatly decreased, did not fall off in nearly as great a proportion as the exports to the same. The general improvement in most of the staple exports has already been mentioned. It therefore only remains to indicate the approximate values according to the statistics for 1896. These were:—sugar, 420,000*l.*; rum, 34,000*l.*; tapioca, 28,000*l.*; vanilla, 21,000*l.*; essential oils, 18,800*l.*; cloves, 9,800*l.*; and coffee, 5,500*l.*

Value of exports, 1889-97.

Principal exports, 1896.

The subjoined tables extracted from the "Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom" for 1898, will serve to show the value according to British statistics of the trade of the United Kingdom with Réunion during the last five years.

The local financial situation can only be judged by the condition of affairs at the Colonial Bank of Réunion. This establishment has passed through a very severe crisis, but its position appears to be slightly improving. The rate of interest charged varies according to the transaction from 6 to 9 per cent. the average being about 8 per cent.

Réunion Colonial Bank.

As a general rule the colony is subject to the French customs

tariff. Live-stock, cereals, and flour, fresh and salted meats, vegetable oils, timber, mineral combustibles and oils and one or two other less important classes of goods are imported free of duty, whilst teas and certain spices only pay half the regular French rate. Manufacturers alone may import raw tobacco, paying 250 fr. per 100 kilos.

Customs  
tariff.

A general 2 per cent. *ad valorem* export duty is levied on all local products.

Freights.

The freight charged from Bordeaux to Réunion is 60 fr. plus 10 per cent. per metric ton.

British trade,  
1894-98.

### BRITISH Trade with Réunion, 1894-98.

#### IMPORTS into the United Kingdom.

	Value.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Total value .. .. .	..	7	..	200	1,055

#### EXPORTS from the United Kingdom.

#### PRODUCE and Manufactures of the United Kingdom.

Principal and other Articles.	Value.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Coal, cinders, and fuel .. ..	3,252	..	..	..	..
Cottons, entered by the yard ..	2,183	1,507	1,572	1,681	603
"    "    at value .. ..	362	335	455	223	231
Machinery and mill work .. ..	..	..	3	1,146	1,446
Manure .. .. .	44	115	728	170	278
Metals: iron, wrought and un- wrought .. .. .	365	436	511	628	224
Soap .. .. .	845	833	2,184	766	332
Parcel post .. .. .	..	6	1	7	2
All other articles .. .. .	55	928	1,527	2,018	1,337
Total .. .. .	7,111	4,160	6,981	6,639	4,453

### IV.—OCEANIA.

#### *New Caledonia.*

Area and  
population.

The island of New Caledonia was first occupied by the French in the year 1853 and from 1864 forward was, for some time, principally known as the second of the two important French convict

settlements. It is one of the larger of the islands in the southern Pacific and has an area of 21,023 square kiloms., whilst its population, according to the latest official figures dating from 1889, is 62,752. It is, however, probable that the number of inhabitants has, by this time, somewhat increased as there is a fairly steady, though small, flow of immigration. A certain number of smaller islands in the immediate, or remoter, neighbourhood, are for administrative purposes attached to New Caledonia.

The principal centres are, Noumea, the seat of government, Chief centres. which possesses a good harbour, Bourail, the most important amongst the penal establishments, Foa and Canala, districts in which agriculture is said to be progressing steadily, the Diahot Valley, containing copper and cobalt mines, and Urio, which is well known on account of its nickel mines.

The colony appears in the 1899 Colonial Budget estimates for Colonial a sum of about 287,500*l.* Of this, however, about 170,000*l.* Budget. represents the costs of the penal settlements, and cannot consequently, as has already been remarked in speaking of French Guiana, be looked upon as colonial expenditure in the strict sense of the term. The actual cost of the colony to the mother country during the year is estimated, therefore, in round numbers at 117,500*l.*, but is reduced by some 3,500*l.* by reason of payments made to the Home Government. The estimated ordinary expenditure in the Local Budget for 1898 was Local Budget. 96,750*l.*

The estimates for the present year are somewhat higher both as regards revenue and expenditure, the former partly by reason of a new capitation tax which has been imposed upon the natives. The total annual expenditure in both Budgets, on account of the colony, may be taken at about 210,000*l.* or somewhat over 3*l.* per head of the population, in the European portion of which it is probable that the military and official elements, together with the convicts and the functionaries connected with the penal settlements, form a not unimportant section.

The officials in charge of the convict establishments would appear to be separate and distinct from those administering the colony itself, who number 372 and include 25 holding governmental posts in the strict sense. The troops according to a table contained in the Budget for 1899 number 979. Number of officials.

If the size of New Caledonia, in comparison to some other French colonies, be taken into consideration, it may be said to rank as one of the most valuable of French possessions. Economic value. Whatever may be the eventual development of the vaster territories acquired by France of late years, this island certainly possesses many of the requisites for successful European colonisation.

The two great difficulties which have been noticed in other cases are here quite as serious, if not more serious, than elsewhere. Hindrances to development The means of communication are most inadequate and the supply of suitable labour quite unequal to the growing needs of the colony. Whilst the latter question is undoubtedly of the greatest importance as regards the development of New Caledonia as what

may be termed an "immigration colony," the former appears for the moment to hold the first rank. The island, as will be seen hereafter, possesses very considerable mineral wealth, the profitable working of which is greatly hindered by the cost of transport and shipping.

Projected port  
improvements  
Noumea.

A summary of an interesting report dealing with the question of means of communication is published in a comparatively recent number of the "Quinzaine Coloniale." The report is based upon the proposal that the colony should effect a loan of 10,000,000 fr. with a view to building a railway and providing the port of Noumea with a dry dock, wharf, &c. The expenses connected with this latter section of the proposal are estimated at about 4,500,000 fr., and it is very clearly demonstrated that the enterprise would probably prove a financial success. It is also thought that a great point in its favour would lie in the providing, for French warships in these latitudes, of a suitable dry dock in which they could undergo all necessary repairs which must at present be made either in Australia or New Zealand. With regard to the wharf in particular, it may be mentioned that the Messageries Maritimes Company proposed, a short time ago, on certain conditions, to build it at its own expense. The conditions proposed do not, however, appear to have been acceptable to the local authorities.

Railway  
scheme.

A number of roadsteads and a few natural harbours exist along the coast at which, however, all loading and discharging has to be performed by means of lighters. A first-class port is therefore essential. But, from a general point of view the railway question seems to hold an even more prominent place. The island is almost entirely surrounded by reefs, and whilst navigation between them and the mainland is perfectly feasible on the east coast, it is attended by many difficulties on the west. Further the mountainous character of New Caledonia as a whole constitutes a serious impediment to the construction of ordinary roads on an extensive scale and renders the various centres somewhat inaccessible.

The length of the island being far greater than its breadth the main question has always been whether the railway system should take the form of a number of transversal lines or one main line down the centre. The report from which the present information is principally drawn is decidedly in favour of the latter scheme. It does not, however, pre-suppose that more than a section of the railroad can be constructed at present, and it may even be said that the whole enterprise has, as yet, not got beyond the problematic stage. That such a railway would be of inestimable value in furthering the development of this rich island is a fact which can scarcely be doubted.

Mineral  
wealth.

In the northern portion of the island copper is said to abound. Five English companies have of late years been formed to work the mines, each having a large capital. A railway is now being constructed to bring down to the water edge the output of the mines, and it is expected that within a short time the production of copper will be greatly increased. Zinc ores, containing lead, silver,

and gold-bearing quartz, are also found. In the South, nickel is mined in quarries by English and French companies. Iron ore exists in great quantities, but as yet very little has been exported. Chrome has been largely shipped, and is found everywhere. Cobalt ore is also found, but the shipments are as yet comparatively trifling owing to the small requirements for consumption. Of late two companies have been formed to work the pearl fisheries, one with French capital, and the other by a Sydney Company.

The following table shows the quantities of minerals exported during the year 1898:—

Export of  
minerals.

Ore—						Quantity.
						Kilos.
Auriferous	..	..	..	..	..	910
Iron	..	..	..	..	..	20,000
Copper	..	..	..	..	..	4,977
Lead	..	..	..	..	..	250
Nickel	..	..	..	..	..	10,578,200
Cobalt	..	..	..	..	..	2,222,166
Chrome	..	..	..	..	..	7,711,855

It is estimated that the economy, resultant from the building of the railway, in the transport rates from the mines to Noumea would average about 60 per cent., and, as the mineral riches are said not to have been worked to their full extent, it seems likely that the output could, under more favourable circumstances, be greatly increased. The drawback is, as usual, of a financial order. Without the guarantee of the Home Government the colony could not obtain even the loan of 10,000,000 fr. at present under consideration at a rate of less than 8 per cent. per annum including the requirements of the sinking fund.

If the mining question be set aside the general progress of Colonisation the colony, though on the whole satisfactory, appears to be somewhat slow. The soil is, for the most part, of good quality. But, whilst the climate is healthy, the occasional droughts and hurricanes seem to do much harm to the crops of which coffee, up to the present, is by far the most important and steadily progressive. Vanilla, the vine, wheat, manioc, &c., have also been cultivated with a certain amount of success though hitherto on a more or less experimental footing. The breeding of cattle appears to be a source of future wealth and a comparatively important export trade is already done in preserved meats.

The existence of the penal establishments is regarded with decided disfavour by the free colonists who are also the chief sufferers from the already-mentioned labour question.

It is difficult to arrive either at the exact number of colonists in New Caledonia or the increase or diminution of the flow of immigration. According to an article in the "Quinzaine Coloniale" of May 25, 1898, the number of families which had settled there between June, 1895, and January, 1898, was 195.

To these, however, must be added 17 Americans, 30 discharged soldiers, and 10 officials who had also taken up the free grants which form one of the great attractions. On the other hand about 10 per cent. of the total of the above number had left during the same period.

Value of  
imports, 1888  
and 1897.

In the matter of imports French and colonial trade is here as in most other cases profiting at the expense of the foreign. In 1888 the value of the goods imported was estimated at 363,897*l.*, of which 152,970*l.* represented the French trade, and 210,927*l.* the foreign. In 1897 the corresponding figures were 343,731*l.*, 186,402*l.*, and 157,329*l.* During the 10 years the total trade had, therefore, fallen off by 20,166*l.*, that of France and French colonies had increased by 33,432*l.*, and that of other countries decreased by 53,598*l.*

Principal  
imports, 1896.

The detailed French statistics for 1896 show the principal imports to have been:—Wines and spirits, about 68,000*l.*; cereals and flour, 66,000*l.*; textiles, 41,000*l.*; colonial products (mainly sugar and tobacco), 23,500*l.*; hardware and metal goods, 21,700*l.* Of the imports of the year only about 3,500*l.* worth came directly from the United Kingdom. Australia, on the contrary, is credited with imports to the value of about 148,000*l.*, thus absorbing almost the whole of the trade with foreign countries.

Value of  
exports, 1888  
and 1897.

The export trade of the island had increased very largely between the years 1888 and 1897. In the former year the total value was 53,158*l.*, divided into France and French colonies, 45,945*l.*, and other countries, 7,213*l.* In 1897 the exports to France and French colonies amounted to 131,991*l.*, and those to other countries, 147,019*l.*, giving a total of 279,010*l.* The total increase amounted, therefore, to 225,852*l.*, and that of the trade with France and French colonies to 86,046*l.*, whilst that of the trade with foreign countries attained 139,806*l.*, springing thus from an insignificant to an important figure. No details are available for either of the above years, but in view of the statistics for 1896 it may safely be assumed that this remarkable rate of increase is mainly due to the growth of the mineral output, especially in so far as the exports to foreign countries are concerned.

Principal  
exports, 1896.

During 1896 the principal exports were:—Minerals, nearly 140,000*l.*; animal products (principally preserved meats and hides), about 43,000*l.*; and coffee, 22,400*l.* The exports to Great Britain were represented by the solitary item—minerals, 45,600*l.* Australia is the most important foreign customer of New Caledonia and imported, in 1896, over 77,000*l.* worth of mineral and other products.

Customs  
tariff.

As regards customs duties the island is, in general, subject to the French tariff. The duties on many goods, and especially on certain classes of mining machinery, are consequently so heavy as to be a serious impediment to enterprises of all kinds. Were free trade or a more liberal tariff adopted the prosperity of the island would probably be enormously increased. The few exemptions from duty include breadstuffs, some chemical products, coal, pig-iron, boilers and agricultural implements and machinery. No export dues are levied.

*Tahiti, &c.*

Two islands belonging to the Society Archipelago, Tahiti and Moorea, are the most important of the French possessions in Polynesia, which however, further include, geographically and administratively, the remainder of that group, the Marquesas Archipelago, those of Tuamotu, Gambier, Tubuai, the two small islands of Motuiti and Batutu and the Island of Rapa.

The whole area of these various possessions only amounts to 4,210 square kiloms. with a total population of not quite 24,000. French dominion in this part of Polynesia began in 1843 with the acquisition of the Marquesas. Tahiti, on the contrary, though ranking as a protectorate since 1843, only became a colony as lately as 1880.

The entire body of possessions is administered by a governor resident at Papeete, the capital of Tahiti, assisted by 14 subordinate administrative officials who form part of the 235 constituting the total number of functionaries of all descriptions connected with these colonies. It may, perhaps, be remarked that the colonists and inhabitants have recently raised a certain amount of outcry against the number of officials employed in some branches. The military force, on the other hand is trifling, comprising 161 men all told.

The Colonial Budget estimates for 1899 show an expenditure on behalf of the colony of 33,904*l.*, including a direct subsidy to the Local Budget of 3,168*l.* The Local Budget for 1898 showed an estimated expenditure of 48,698*l.* By adding the Colonial Budget estimates for 1899 and those of the Local Budget for 1898, after due deduction of the subsidy, it will be found that the net annual expenditure is probably between 75,000*l.* and 80,000*l.*, which amounts to a per capita expenditure of about 3*l.* 10*s.*, considerably more than half of which is borne by the Local Budget. The financial situation during 1898, according to the speech made by the Governor at the opening of the Conseil-Général in November last, had not justified the expectations which had been formed owing to the small production and fall in price of various exports.

The political horizon in these far-away possessions is by no means clear at present. A very strong feeling in favour of administrative and financial autonomy, including a complete re-organisation of the system of government, exists. The autonomist party maintains that what it designates as "the present state of tutelage" is a direct hindrance to economic progress. It declares that the colony is quite able to support all necessary expenditure, except that of military occupation, conditionally on its financial affairs being managed without the intervention of the Home Government.

Two other questions are exciting a large amount of local interest. The first is that of means of communication with the outside world which are, apparently, at present dependent upon foreign vessels. A proposal formulated by a Paris house for the running of a regular line of steamers from Noumea to Tahiti,



touching at Apia and some of the French islands on the way, has been considered. The undertaking was to enjoy a subsidy of 200,000 fr. per annum, exemption from certain dues and a number of other advantages. The proposal has, however, been rejected by the Conseil Général which has declared itself in favour of giving up the annual subsidy from the Home Government on condition that the latter shall organise a regular service on whatever lines it may think fit. At the same time the Conseil is prepared to arrange, at the cost of the colony, for the inauguration of regular communication between the different islands.

**Chinese immigration.**

The second question is the alarming proportions assumed by the immigration of Chinese of the trading class. Almost the whole of the retail trade is stated to have fallen into their hands, whilst they are already beginning to attack the wholesale markets. With a view to stemming the tide, somewhat heavy special taxes have been imposed on immigrants of this nationality, with the exception of farmers, market gardeners, and domestic servants.

**Economic situation.**

Notwithstanding all the advantages, climatic and other, which are possessed by the island and by Tahiti in particular, the economic situation can only be characterised as in general distinctly bad. Numerous efforts are being made to arrest the seemingly threatening decay. The question of attracting *bona-fide* French colonists is occupying local attention. To this end it is proposed to acquire, with public funds, a large domain, and to divide it into a number of small holdings to be eventually distributed amongst colonists of the above class bringing with them the necessary capital of a few thousand francs. The project, however, does not as yet appear to have reached a very definite stage.

**Trade with France.**

From a strictly French point of view the situation is exceptionally unsatisfactory, in that the mother country occupies the second place as regards imports, their value being rather less than a quarter of the total, and only the sixth as regards exports. This circumstance is mainly attributable to the geographical position of the colony, the lack of a suitable market in France for local products, to the want of proper means of communication, and finally to the fact that the foreign business houses are as a rule richer and far better organised for carrying on the various classes of trade peculiar to the colony. Notwithstanding these facts the commercial relations of France with her colony have shown a gradual improvement during the last few years.

**Principal imports.**

The principal imports are: textiles, flour, various preserved meats, fish, &c., spirits and wines, hardware, machinery, and coal. About half of the import trade is in the hands of the United States, New Zealand and the United Kingdom ranking third and fourth respectively.

An exhaustive report, from the pen of M. Raoul, President of the Papeete Chamber of Commerce, bearing upon the trade of the island, was published early in the current year by the "Quinzaine Coloniale." As far as imports are concerned the following special reasons are given therein as the main causes of the small amount

of trade done with France :—(1) The higher price of French products. (2) The excessive freights charged. (3) The fact that the natives, from long habit, have become accustomed to foreign goods.

This is borne out by the fact that, notwithstanding the high protective duties, textiles are mainly imported from the United Kingdom and the United States, and agricultural implements, tools, hardware, woodwork, vehicles, furniture, &c., come principally from the latter country, whilst the imports from the mother country consist, for the most part, of spirits and wines, cement, iron, bricks, crockery, glassware, stationery, the finer classes of preserves and certain fancy goods, none of which, except the first can be said to rank as first class imports.

As regards the value of imports the figures in 1888 were :— France and French colonies, 26,202*l.*; other countries, 107,906*l.*; total, 134,108*l.* The figures for 1898 have lately been published in the "Quinzaine Coloniale," and may consequently be taken in place of those for 1897, which have, in most cases, been the latest returns available. The total value of imports was for 1898, 118,698*l.*, and that of the trade with France and French colonies 28,115*l.*, leaving for other countries 90,583*l.* Thus the total trade had, during the 11 years, decreased by 15,410*l.*, and that with foreign countries by 17,323*l.*, whilst imports of French origin had increased in value by nearly 2,000*l.* In this respect, however, there had been considerable fluctuations during the period under consideration; in 1896 the French and colonial imports reached the low figure of about 12,000*l.* The imports from the United Kingdom, which seem to consist almost exclusively of textiles, are declining rapidly, as far as can be judged from the only special statistics published, those for 1896 and for 1898. In the former year they were at 18,553*l.*, and in the latter at 7,498*l.*

Import from France and other countries compared.

Value of imports, 1888 and 1898.

Imports from Great Britain declining.

The exports of the French Polynesian possessions consist chiefly of mother-of-pearl, pearls, copra, and vanilla. A certain number of other products, such as cocoanut flour, tortoiseshell, cotton, fine straw, and articles manufactured therewith, &c., are exported in small quantities. Some of these commodities held formerly a far more important place than at the present day, whilst other products exported some years ago have practically disappeared from the list.

Principal exports.

Mother-of-pearl had up to last year been by far the most important export and usually represented about half the total value. During 1898, however, its value only amounted to a little over 8,000*l.* as compared with between 45,000*l.* and 50,000*l.* in 1896. This enormous decrease is, according to the "Bulletin des Halles," due to the fact that the beds have not been properly preserved, and the supply has consequently, for the present, been nearly worked out. It is also said that the quantity varies considerably, according to the fisheries which are open. It is exported almost exclusively to the United States, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand.

Mother-of-pearl.

About 4,000*l.* worth of pearls are annually exported.

Pearls.

**Copra.** The exportation of copra has also fallen-off from about 32,000*l.* in 1896, to some 21,000*l.* in 1898, owing probably to a disease which has attacked the cocoanut palms in certain islands. Hitherto the average exportation has been 5,400 tons per annum. Of this, 1,700 tons usually went to Hamburg, 1,500 tons to Liverpool, and 1,400 tons to San Francisco.

**Vanilla.** The value of the vanilla exported had sunk slightly in 1898 in comparison with 1896, *i.e.*, 15,000*l.*, as against 16,000*l.* Owing to an exceptional rise in price in 1897 this product then ranked far higher than in 1898. The price has again fallen seriously, but it is estimated that the production will increase from 20 to 30 per cent. during the next two years as the result of the formation of new plantations.

**Value of exports, 1888 and 1898.** In 1888 the value of exports to France and French colonies was nil, whilst foreign countries received merchandise worth 104,009*l.* from the colony. In 1898, out of a total value of 117,240*l.*, France received products worth 4,047*l.*, and other countries, 113,193*l.*

**Value of exports to the United Kingdom.** Of this latter amount, the United States received about 40,000*l.*, New Zealand, 27,000*l.*; the Azores, 14,700*l.*; the United Kingdom, 12,000*l.*; Russia, 5,300*l.*; Germany, 3,700*l.*, &c. It will be observed that the exports have, during the 11 years, increased in value by nearly 13 per cent. This cannot, nevertheless, be taken as indicating an improvement as, since 1891, when they stood at over 180,000*l.*, they have shown, on the whole, a steady downward tendency.

**Customs tariff.** The colony possesses a special customs tariff imposing, as has already been indicated, somewhat heavy duties on imports of foreign origin. Practically all goods pay higher or lower rates, but the following appear to be the most interesting charges:—Textiles, cutlery, and galvanised iron, 13 per cent.; hardware, 10 per cent.; tools and agricultural implements, 8 per cent., all *ad valorem*; pig-iron, steel, copper, &c., 12 fr. per 100 kilos.; and spirits from 1 fr. 50 c. to 2 fr. 25 c. per litre, according to strength.

An export duty of 250 fr. per ton on mother-of-pearl exported to foreign countries was voted by the Conseil-Général at the end of last year.

**Freights.** With regard to freights, the Messageries Maritimes Company have lately made arrangements for a through rate to Tahiti from Marseilles, viâ Sydney and Auckland, of 120 fr. per cubic metre, which constitutes an important reduction on the freights formerly charged.

FRENCH COLONIES.

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Table I.—VALUE of Imports into the French Colonies during the Years 1888 and 1893-97.

Colonies.	1888.		1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.	
	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
Martinique	341,518	568,053	455,265	560,802	544,832	608,323	346,729	488,248	421,410	484,946	434,180	416,932
Guadeloupe	464,804	495,327	387,566	403,726	471,076	925,337	319,153	330,483	453,817	406,283	358,569	317,917
Réunion.	381,804	509,918	246,861	432,178	479,014	543,587	408,200	513,923	521,199	346,648	586,619	261,269
French Guyana	328,960	157,032	223,343	191,185	375,815	105,268	308,941	125,979	238,903	103,961	233,559	118,797
Senegal	488,068	524,216	357,319	191,840	660,539	408,233	720,214	389,312	563,541	473,121	687,428	488,212
French Guinea	...	...	22,970	138,517	23,762	170,047	24,213	172,683	20,788	162,735	48,520	253,977
Ivory Coast	...	...	7,392	90,647	17,133	90,647	14,531	104,283	32,551	151,147	27,908	157,985
Dahomey	...	...	178,421	235,711	140,389	286,216	134,969	252,543	147,180	238,136	116,075	210,277
Congo	...	...	57,029	65,870	46,745	135,628	69,994	151,623	59,482	130,482	...	...
Mayotte	...	...	8,712	13,520	14,433	10,981	13,344	8,561	20,783	5,841	...	...
Madagascar	9,372	11,555	95,615	125,570	132,772	141,705	83,727	163,579	218,406	335,570	396,318	330,747
Indian Settlements	22,628	71,867	21,034	108,780	25,465	100,281	13,915	86,143	15,259	104,058	...	...
St. Pierre and Miquelon	141,529	288,324	102,410	140,307	120,848	146,358	155,200	168,993	181,467	161,747	177,895	191,680
New Caledonia	182,970	210,927	209,694	158,824	208,927	134,093	150,807	141,156	195,691	159,461	186,402	157,329
Tahiti, &c.	26,202	107,906	23,457	85,169	14,634	87,728	17,791	78,854	12,560	100,268	15,485	132,797
Cochin-China and Cambodia	...	...	392,780	1,075,585	398,685	1,084,699	689,772	1,620,461	720,174	1,339,596	824,788	1,231,554
Annam	...	...	8,581	146,716	5,068	168,843	12,896	125,804	9,909	142,988	8,947	177,954
Tonkin	...	...	349,755	722,637	394,049	667,193	419,172	657,378	479,720	518,458	583,479	665,667
Total	2,890,497	4,956,579	3,247,628	4,801,605	4,074,086	6,785,107	3,909,288	5,642,591	4,312,850	5,364,825	4,696,172	5,114,044
Grand total	7,837,076		8,049,133		9,809,193		9,551,869		9,677,676		9,810,216	

\* Previous to 1895 the figures cannot be regarded as conclusive.

## FRENCH COLONIES.

Table II.—VALUE of Exports from the French Colonies during the Years 1888 and 1893-97.

Colonies.	1888.		1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.	
	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
Martinique	885,350	43,556	900,648	52,078	839,226	62,306	731,199	46,850	806,869	43,210	719,592	45,421
Guadeloupe	1,013,977	17,345	914,448	7,551	828,270	6,766	473,292	7,426	731,677	4,373	439,712	6,139
Réunion	463,963	152,908	624,221	47,710	572,470	49,297	702,360	12,230	662,746	26,789	714,900	17,080
French Guyana	229,718	8,462	199,055	6,354	559,200	10,652	343,669	12,209	348,510	7,665	277,446	6,981
Senegal	465,638	189,571	549,837	162,439	676,502	142,981	364,340	128,130	532,202	242,572	637,840	198,254
French Guinea	...	...	24,752	163,413	26,742	181,076	26,712	180,430	34,236	194,966	26,770	239,577
Ivory Coast	...	...	84,893	117,868	44,668	116,496	43,234	113,637	88,094	85,654	88,848	96,028
Dahomey	...	...	93,223	256,616	108,269	286,728	186,291	260,416	154,310	211,016	60,502	168,363
Congo	...	...	17,993	74,877	67,583	179,749	25,794	170,186	24,904	163,049	...	...
Mayotte	37,021	4,265	60,071	1,833	38,033	39,393	39,393	1,236	46,564	1,193	...	...
Madagascar	87,130	6,487	62,027	69,353	48,117	99,921	16,148	101,666	41,852	100,957	49,211†	122,763†
Indian Settlements	432,658	414,840	503,326	233,876	489,813	334,239	319,484	309,413	327,303	243,775	...	...
St. Pierre and Miquelon	466,478	234,871	121,803	121,803	280,814	91,481	254,487	88,465	328,169	90,473	316,657	109,208
New Caledonia	43,945	7,213	180,944	186,406	56,412	197,989	91,790	216,306	95,611	131,777	131,991	147,019
Tahiti, &c.	...	104,009	25,942	116,852	17,177	107,207	9,251	96,228	1,594	137,905	12,818	112,460
Cochin-China and Cambodia	...	...	433,194	2,767,141	444,819	3,046,409	469,556	2,906,462	333,094	2,776,306	567,275	3,182,690
Annam	80,331	2,732,606	9,878	92,202	6,983	94,986	5,992	76,276	3,833	91,160	12,534	86,670
Tonkin	...	...	12,397	394,460	14,051	513,082	29,771	326,002	64,612	248,404	59,585	732,111
Total	4,134,469	4,104,317	4,969,477	4,934,830	6,007,214	5,494,251	4,102,461	5,043,488	4,426,870	4,789,844	4,115,181	6,277,863
Grand total	8,238,776	...	9,894,307	...	10,601,468	...	9,146,049	...	9,216,714	...	9,393,044	...

\* Prev. us to 1895 the figures cannot be regarded as conclusive.

† Figures taken from the Report on the 1899 Budget.

Table III.—VALUE of Imports of French Colonies during the Year 1896, Divided according to Classes of Merchandise.

Articles.	Martinique.		Guadaloupe.	
	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals .. .. .	98	17,617	38	20,149
Animal products, hides, &c. ..	9,517	47,886	7,893	100,636
Fish .. .. .	48,194	1,542	40,809	1,847
Animal substances for medicines and perfumery .. .. .	33	..	..	..
Cereals and flour .. .. .	29,205	100,020	23,395	132,780
Vegetables, fruits, and seeds ..	1,112	437	920	261
Colonial products .. .. .	40,975	60,067	17,255	5,765
Oils and vegetable essences ..	12,375	23,642	20,894	13,074
Drugs .. .. .	237	9	..	..
Timber .. .. .	2,952	26,453	1,180	27,826
Vegetable fibres, &c. .. ..	199	229	9	50
Spirits, wines, &c. .. ..	60,352	4,393	62,540	2,422
Building stone, mineral combustibles, &c. .. ..	10,435	79,358	1,964	31,013
Metals .. .. .	12,230	458	8,697	1,843
Chemical products .. .. .	6,696	68,749	33,870	25,689
Colouring matters .. .. .	2,193	24	2,020	25
Yarns and threads .. .. .	5,808	49	5,966	531
Textiles .. .. .	64,154	20,216	39,353	21,033
Paper, printed matter, &c. ..	5,779	169	3,547	86
Dressed skins and furs .. ..	16,052	247	16,201	308
Machinery, hardware, tools, metal goods, &c. .. ..	30,342	2,999	98,049	2,246
Arms and ammunition .. .. .	4,680	399	282	4
Furniture and woodwork .. ..	4,476	22,741	1,331	5,011
Musical instruments .. .. .	686	50	671	99
Matting, wickerwork, &c. .. ..	1,880	1,562	1,560	463
Pottery and glassware .. .. .	7,450	244	6,976	304
Dyes .. .. .	1,094	..	..	..
Clothing .. .. .	..	..	15,835	336
Sundry products and manufactured goods .. .. .	42,301	5,386	42,562	12,462
Total .. .. .	421,510	484,946	453,817	406,263
Grand total .. .. .	906,456		860,080	

NOTE.—In certain cases the specie imported is included, in the French statistics, under the head: "Machinery, hardware, tools, &c." The amounts are as follows:—

	£
Guadaloupe .. .. .	74,849
French Guinea .. .. .	1,215
Ivory Coast .. .. .	19,598
Dahomey .. .. .	24,076
Congo .. .. .	3,951
Indian Settlements .. .. .	594
St. Pierre and Miquelon .. ..	3,218
Tabiti .. .. .	2,997
Total .. .. .	130,498

## VALUE of Imports of French Colonies during the Year

Articles.	Réunion.		French Guiana.	
	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals .. .. .	29,370	3,312	233	23,872
Animal products, hides, &c. ..	21,547	65,990	27,220	22,641
Fish .. .. .	32,354	3,401	4,149	4,113
Animal substances for medicines and perfumery.. .. .	..	..	..	..
Cereals and flour.. .. .	30,112	219,621	33,220	18,219
Vegetables, fruits, and seeds ..	568	638	534	213
Colonial products .. .. .	1,772	5,358	15,017	10,055
Oils and vegetable essences ..	6,705	2,159	8,094	1,592
Drugs .. .. .	..	..	55	12
Timber .. .. .	5,567	3,844	19	5,744
Vegetable fibres, &c. .. ..	53	67	169	5
Spirits, wines, &c.. .. .	91,151	3,106	59,735	2,006
Building stone, mineral com- bustibles, &c. .. .. .	17,045	9,387	2,314	3,891
Metals .. .. .	4,351	2,236	3,037	1,341
Chemical products .. .. .	22,061	2,063	1,218	205
Colouring matters .. .. .	2,923	16	865	2
Yarns and threads .. .. .	7,733	257	500	72
Textiles .. .. .	102,371	11,694	30,080	3,429
Paper, printed matter, &c. ..	8,151	895	1,600	237
Dressed skins and furs .. ..	9,945	377	7,064	102
Machinery, hardware, tools, metal goods, &c. .. ..	48,175	4,533	6,724	958
Arms and ammunition .. .. .	310	3	1,279	92
Furniture and woodwork .. ..	3,207	245	1,193	1,754
Musical instruments .. .. .	..	..	233	22
Matting, wickerwork, &c. .. ..	..	..	787	23
Pottery and glassware .. .. .	5,657	406	2,610	71
Dyes .. .. .	..	..	13	..
Clothing .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Sundry products and manufac- tured goods .. .. .	70,071	6,010	29,756	3,290
Total .. .. .	521,199	345,648	238,903	103,961
Grand total .. .. .	866,847		342,864	

1896, Divided according to Classes of Merchandise—continued.

Senegal.		French Guinea.		Ivory Coast.		Dahomey.	
French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
250	705	..	85	805	2	8	130
18,892	1,780	1,149	1,163	1,390	3,035	1,390	1,737
891	183	152	183	304	334	84	200
12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
90,289	6,927	1,723	7,100	947	4,090	2,592	5,994
2,278	54,755	34	1,065	84	45	55	1,553
40,293	54,935	1,003	10,802	700	8,746	5,317	26,031
28,709	5,350	573	617	156	136	683	260
298	..	..	..	4	3	..	2
5,154	14,332	794	1,826	372	1,082	1,565	2,305
35	70	..	100	5	5	..	260
52,549	13,058	2,912	8,497	4,509	23,224	113,775	56,776
13,673	21,232	1,640	3,200	783	1,767	1,935	2,861
2,640	2,500	88	1,115	328	2,063	474	5,083
1,531	409	220	5,807	1,957	1,960	1,237	6,225
4,548	384	197	138	141	310	90	339
10,580	6,298	37	114	73	2,172	223	4,848
183,371	2,000	944	81,153	1,805	36,712	7,073	64,758
4,601	301	252	103	505	229	351	256
5,887	1,269	109	102	175	360	165	379
28,479	4,810	3,252	8,156	9,686	20,859	3,241	26,210
8,756	4,840	1,040	3,421	498	24,684	1,025	1,411
5,486	1,950	205	1,710	4,291	4,939	2,395	5,225
233	52	36	45	73	189	29	175
109	111	142	109	64	217	45	330
6,531	3,714	404	2,663	768	2,814	551	7,042
3	20	66	70	..	..	8	708
..	..	..	..	..	..	683	1,456
47,463	18,172	3,126	23,320	2,138	11,170	2,237	15,573
563,541	473,121	23,788	162,735	32,551	151,147	147,180	238,127
1,036,662		183,523		183,698		385,307	



## VALUE of Imports of French Colonies during the Year 1896,

Articles.	Congo.		Mayotte.			
	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.		
	£	£	£	£		
Live animals .. .. .	391	96	Total imports 20,793½ and 5,851½, respectively	Details not obtainable		
Animal products, hides, &c. ..	3,325	4,699				
Fish .. .. .	340	3,251				
Animal substances for medicines and perfumery.. .. .	..	3				
Cereals and flour.. .. .	2,142	4,540				
Vegetables, fruits, and seeds ..	108	80				
Colonial products .. .. .	1,333	5,858				
Oils and vegetable essences ..	438	506				
Drugs .. .. .	..	..				
Timber .. .. .	646	1,045				
Vegetable fibres, &c. .. ..	10	8				
Spirits, wines, &c. .. ..	18,202	10,187				
Building stone, mineral combustibles, &c. .. ..	1,683	1,999				
Metals .. .. .	135	3,640				
Chemical products .. .. .	1,456	3,756				
Colouring matters .. .. .	749	376				
Yarns and threads .. .. .	3,633	56,016				
Textiles .. .. .						
Paper, printed matter, &c. ..	277	368				
Dressed skins and furs .. ..	628	439				
Machinery, hardware, tools, metal goods, &c. .. ..	10,253	11,970				
Arms and ammunition .. .. .	4,100	6,308				
Furniture and woodwork .. ..	1,992	1,349				
Musical instruments .. .. .	13	514				
Matting, wickerwork, &c. ..	667	408				
Pottery and glassware .. ..	1,045	7,290				
Dyes .. .. .	..	51				
Clothing .. .. .	..	..				
Sundry products and manufactured goods .. .. .	5,916	5,722				
Total .. .. .	59,482	130,482	..	..		
Grand total .. .. .	189,964		..			

Divided according to Classes of Merchandise—continued.

Mada- gascar.	Indian Settlements.		St. Pierre and Miquelon.		New Caledonia.	
Total Imports.	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£
11,642	..	256	30	8,711	70	15,729
11,958	826	391	6,723	15,131	3,748	11,735
1,658	..	118	26,105	2,007	1,735	1,178
243	..	..	5	..	39	..
29,372	29	4,614	3,861	17,044	13,949	52,728
890	..	4,768	315	915	1,059	2,278
15,490	135	24,217	8,615	14,731	12,701	10,869
3,470	145	6,807	3,022	724	4,563	1,497
215	524	492	25	..	55	24
5,739	190	6,857	131	9,081	20	8,562
556	33	603	427	70	126	181
67,006	4,846	3,568	37,256	6,664	65,935	1,908
1,763	34	19,418	792	12,440	1,319	12,082
37,160	..	2,274	1,730	2,131	3,857	3,170
4,164	22	1,493	25,911	17,356	1,439	1,588
2,317	..	..	1,260	1,220	1,311	217
1,737	..	758	10,416	7,701	1,929	1,523
282,888	2,523	18,930	18,916	5,890	31,716	9,473
5,390	2,235	825	987	154	5,224	1,315
5,567	..	..	3,835	2,353	5,914	2,035
25,804	..	733	15,397	8,951	13,432	8,347
1,114	..	..	577	633	536	446
1,114	..	76	1,298	6,814	1,459	595
805	..	..	137	41	407	238
874	..	..	292	44	1,319	221
7,500	4	388	3,193	1,774	3,436	419
20	6	147	..	126	48	158
..	..	..	..	..	3,552	869
27,530	3,707	6,412	10,161	19,041	15,393	10,076
553,976	15,259	104,058	181,467	161,747	195,691	159,401
..	119,317		343,214		355,152	

## VALUE of Imports of French Colonies during the Year 1896,

Articles.	Tahiti, &c.	
	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.
	£	£
Live animals .. .. .	2	1,864
Animal products, hides, &c. ..	340	6,950
Fish .. .. .	290	2,323
Animal substances for medicines and perfumery.. .. .	..	..
Cereals and flour.. .. .	6	17,206
Vegetables, fruits, and seeds ..	45	1,627
Colonial products .. .. .	807	3,484
Oils and vegetable essences ..	412	631
Drugs .. .. .	..	..
Timber .. .. .	33	2,221
Vegetable fibres, &c. .. .. .	..	..
Spirits, wines, &c. .. .. .	2,360	2,767
Building stone, mineral combustibles, &c. .. .. .	177	2,515
Metals .. .. .	60	1,864
Chemical products .. .. .	16	192
Colouring matters .. .. .	65	650
Yarns and threads .. .. .	47	2,052
Textiles .. .. .	2,350	26,634
Paper, printed matter, &c. ..	274	790
Dressed skins and furs .. ..	403	1,010
Machinery, hardware, tools, metal goods, &c. .. .. .	1,026	7,607
Arms and ammunition .. .. .	71	274
Furniture and woodwork .. ..	63	3,703
Musical instruments .. .. .	103	298
Matting, wickerwork, &c. .. ..	11	104
Pottery and glassware .. .. .	271	214
Dyes .. .. .	..	51
Clothing .. .. .	465	1,388
Sundry products and manufactured goods .. .. .	2,863	11,849
Total.. .. .	12,560	100,268
Grand total .. .. .	112,828	

Divided according to Classes of Merchandise—continued.

Cochin-China and Cambodia.		Annam.		Tonkin.	
French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.	French and French Colonial Goods.	Foreign Goods.
£	£	£	£	£	£
9	4,697	..	300	434	8,710
7,683	10,430	201	508	12,697	13,174
518	7,279	30	188	1,101	1,717
128	..	..	..	240	..
9,893	50,223	163	1,967	21,110	21,920
1,273	48,380	40	718	1,674	3,701
125,868	55,673	192	12,399	17,826	31,767
7,464	137,642	77	631	6,735	26,279
14	8,693	..	13,945	102	41,625
438	11,658	..	21	442	2,531
561	11,049	32	41	669	4,752
67,834	11,051	2,393	675	127,812	7,786
24,500	180,714	744	7,205	10,204	44,450
33,686	115,973	2,507	2,235	33,222	12,411
8,657	4,492	116	437	7,371	2,265
6,442	3,248	43	191	4,233	1,374
4,112	43,053	6	46,900	2,093	145,118
259,242	363,787	310	11,172	87,906	35,841
8,452	63,826	468	23,819	13,407	22,355
3,813	4,255	150	158	7,581	2,887
90,133	47,466	1,007	4,184	43,035	23,810
5,051	14,185	118	1,671	31,741	4,535
1,398	13,166	51	690	2,055	4,591
408	1,081	85	228	650	230
536	7,217	6	518	553	4,403
15,222	27,656	141	6,290	10,376	20,197
99	15,806	..	926	22	3,354
..	..	..	..	..	..
36,740	97,206	1,029	4,971	34,529	26,675
720,174	1,339,996	9,909	142,988	479,720	518,458
2,060,170		152,897		998,178	

Table IV.—VALUE of Exports of French Colonies

Classes of Merchandise.	Martinique.		Guadaloupe.	
	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Animal products, raw hides, &c. ..	1,621	..	296	..
Fish .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Ivory, tortoise-shell, mother-of-pearl, &c. .. .. .	160	..	289	..
Cereals and flour .. .. .	312	..	..	..
Vegetables, fruits, and seeds ..	225	..	7,942	140
Colonial products .. .. .	471,445	143	653,156	699
Oils and vegetable essences .. ..	..	..	..	..
Timber .. .. .	6,432	..	18,900	..
Vegetable fibres .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Drugs .. .. .	1,598	..	..	..
Spirituous liquors .. .. .	215,722	288	31,091	167
Building stone, mineral combustibles, &c. .. ..	..	..	..	..
Metals .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Chemical products .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Yarns and threads .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Textiles .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Furniture and woodwork .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Matting, wickerwork, &c. .. ..	..	..	..	..
Pottery and glassware .. .. .	153	..	..	..
Dyes .. .. .	862	..	2,345	..
Sundry exports .. .. .	144	87	52	81
<b>Total.. .. .</b>	<b>698,674</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>714,061</b>	<b>1,087</b>
<b>Total exportation of colonial goods .. .. .</b>	<b>699,192</b>		<b>715,148</b>	
<b>Imports re-exported .. .. .</b>	<b>152,887</b>		<b>21,102</b>	
<b>Grand total .. .. .</b>	<b>852,079</b>		<b>736,250</b>	

NOTE.—In certain cases specie is included amongst the imports

during the Year 1896, Divided according to Classes of Products.

Réunion.		French Guiana.		Senegal.		French Guinea.	
France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
131	..	..	..	927	..	1,405	16,249
601	..	..	846	2,958	4,659	1,459	7,877
..	..	208	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	353	..	192	571
1,170	5,174	..	..	..	..	131	300
190	..	141	..	256,794	107,923	4,486	17,180
589,577	16,460	331	..	..	..	128	..
18,812	..	2,330	..	135,610	7,142	22,220	142,320
..	..	254	..	..	..	..	..
1,383	..	..	..	..	..	..	177
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
34,680	228	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	1,256	6,580	..	..	..	..
..	..	337,762	..	5,976	..	..	364
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
957	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
507	155	165	152	1,017	256	43	8,863
648,008	22,017	342,447	7,578	403,635	119,980	80,064	193,901
670,025		350,025		523,615		223,965	
18,520		6,150		251,159		5,227	
688,545		356,175		774,774		229,192	

re-exported. The amounts are as follows :—

	£
Martinique .. ..	24,800
French Guiana .. ..	6,011
Tahiti .. ..	1,042
French Guinea .. ..	1,188
Total .. ..	33,041

## VALUE of Exports of French Colonies during the Year

Classes of Merchandise.	Ivory Coast.		Dahomey.	
	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals .. .. .	..	..	..	1,501
Animal products, raw hides, &c.	..	677	..	..
Fish .. .. .	..	..	..	15,120
Ivory, tortoise-shell, mother-of-pearl, &c. .. .. .	..	1,026	..	..
Cereals and flour.. .. .	..	159	..	..
Vegetables, fruits, and seeds ..	2,662	5,791	82,138	146,855
Colonial products .. .. .	3,725	..	..	..
Oils and vegetable essences ..	62,691	34,205	72,131	41,470
Timber .. .. .	3,598	22,245	..	..
Vegetable fibres .. .. .	..	518	..	..
Drugs .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Spirituous liquors .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Building stone, mineral combustibles, &c. .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Metals .. .. .	15,836	20,583	..	..
Chemical products .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Yarns and threads .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Textiles .. .. .	..	..	..	102
Furniture and woodwork .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Matting, wickerwork, &c. .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Pottery and glassware .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Dyes .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Sundry exports .. .. .	82	64	1,052	5
Total .. .. .	88,594	85,218	155,331	205,063
Total exportation of colonial goods .. .. .	173,812		360,374	
Imports re-exported .. .. .	436		4,953	
Grand total .. .. .	174,248		365,328	

1896, Divided according to Class of Products—continued.

Congo.		Mayotte.	Mada- gascar.	Indian Settlements.		St. Pierre and Miquelon.	
France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total Exports.	Total Exports.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
..	168	Total exports 46,564, and 1,193, respectively, details not obtainable.	16,419	..	2,353	..	..
..	..		24,566	..	802	145	257
..	..		..	..	2,749	303,662	66,469
5,992	64,206		356	..	..	..	..
..	..		7,375	..	133,704	..	..
..	8,190		..	..	1,786	..	..
..	491		2,490	..	..	..	..
7,802	74,771		52,732	..	..	..	..
9,035	9,014		3,127	..	1,023	..	..
..	..		29,005	..	..	..	..
..	800		..	..	..	..	..
..	..		..	..	..	..	..
..	..		599	..	..	..	..
..	..		4,443	..	..	..	..
..	..		..	..	..	..	..
..	..		..	720	..	..	..
..	..		381	80,763	43,009	..	..
..	..		..	..	..	2,327	945
..	..		923	..	..	..	..
..	..		..	..	8,934	..	..
..	..		..	..	..	..	..
278	229		393	1,475	14,918	58	238
23,107	157,969	..	142,809	82,958	203,333	306,192	67,909
180,976	..	..	..	292,291	..	374,101	..
6,977	..	..	..	78,787	..	42,531	..
187,953	..	..	142,809	371,078	..	416,632	..



## VALUE of Exports of French Colonies during the Year 1896,

Classes of Merchandise.	New Caledonia.		Tahiti, &c.	
	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals .. ..	..	..	..	..
Animal products, raw hides, &c. ..	38,357	5,071	..	212
Fish .. ..	..	700	..	..
Ivory, tortoise-shell, mother-of-pearl, &c. .. ..	..	730	..	52,424
Cereals and flour .. ..	..	1,013	..	930
Vegetables, fruits and seeds .. ..	..	9,243	..	36,647
Colonial products .. ..	22,356	..	1,584	14,832
Oils and vegetable essences .. ..	203	144	..	..
Timber .. ..	..	..	..	218
Vegetable fibres .. ..	..	..	..	8,450
Drugs .. ..	..	..	..	..
Spirituous liquors .. ..	..	..	..	..
Building stone, mineral com- bustibles, &c. .. ..	..	106	..	..
Metals .. ..	34,009	105,482	..	..
Chemical products .. ..	..	..	..	..
Yarns and threads .. ..	..	..	..	..
Textiles .. ..	..	..	..	..
Furniture and woodwork .. ..	..	..	..	..
Matting, wickerwork, &c. .. ..	..	..	..	..
Pottery and glassware .. ..	..	..	..	..
Dyes .. ..	..	..	..	..
Sundry exports .. ..	173	1,879	10	360
Total .. ..	95,093	124,368	1,594	114,073
Total exportation of colonial goods .. ..	219,466		115,667	
Imports re-exported .. ..	7,922		13,832	
Grand total .. ..	227,388		129,499	

Divided according to Classes of Products—continued.

Cochin-China and Cambodia.		Annam.		Tonkin.	
France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	France and Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
£	£	£	£	£	£
130	15,394	..	8,308	..	1,276
6,845	92,940	1,054	3,020	14,820	27,702
2,474	316,105	..	2,271	283	7,966
4,328	5,469	163	1,077	781	283
232,355	2,152,343	..	8,709	..	91,151
10,759	11,066	..	1,950	..	110
68,989	3,381	2,616	58,662	..	1,805
963	3,942	..	2,008	29,380	14,161
308	1,740	..	849	2,178	886
..	53,690	..	2,176	..	4,026
..	370	..	983	..	1,195
..	..	..	..	..	204
..	..	..	420	756	60,598
..	1,776	..	..	..	1,341
..	2,296	..	3,390	..	165
..	481	..	..	..	..
258	382	..	287	109	788
783	615	..	..	177	494
..	5,241	..	1,724	430	18,193
..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	2,690	..	10,006
685	39,022	..	2,636	5,061	2,978
328,877	2,706,253	3,833	91,160	53,975	245,328
3,035,130		94,993		299,303	
78,870		..		13,713	
3,109,000		94,993		313,016	

## APPENDIX.

**Report on the Colonial Budget for 1900.** The report for the Chamber of Deputies on the Colonial Budget for 1900 has appeared whilst the present report was in the printer's hands. It has, therefore, been impossible to make any extensive use of the information it contains, but a few supplementary remarks, embodying the substance of its introduction, may, perhaps, not be without interest.

The most prominent questions treated are the cost to the Home Government, the Defence, and the Trade of French Colonies as a whole.

**Expenditure.** The annexed table, which has been extracted from the report under consideration, is specially interesting as furnishing the latest data with regard to total expenditure of every description by the French Government from 1885 to 1898. It may, however, be remarked that, in many cases, the amounts given do not coincide with those quoted at the beginning of this report which were extracted from the French Report on the Colonial Budget for 1897.

With regard to present expenditure, the reporter states that the committee has succeeded in reducing the estimates for 1900 in such a manner as to effect an economy of over 3,000,000 fr. (120,000*l.*), as compared with the amount voted for 1899. Whilst pointing out the gradual decrease in civil expenses, he states that, satisfactory as the above reduction would seem to be, the committee cannot guarantee that the eventual result will be such as to justify the hopes of economy which might be based upon its revised estimate. In support of this view he mentions that, from various causes, the true figure of the cost of French colonies to the mother-country during 1899 is likely to reach 117,732,428 fr. (4,710,000*l.*) instead of 90,794,762 fr. (3,632,000*l.*) or somewhat over 1,000,000*l.* more than the sum originally voted.

**Defence.** To explain this considerable excess of expenditure, the reporter states that a very large proportion of it was due to certain measures taken for the defence of the colonies against the possibility of direct attack, but at the same time remarks that it has not yet been definitely decided whether such expenditure should come under the colonial estimates or under those of the Ministry of Marine. With reference to the actual question of defence he observes that the period of colonial expansion once at an end it seemed natural to expect a considerable decrease in the number of troops in the colonies, but that it must be borne in mind that the acquisition of a colonial empire has brought the country face to face with new problems, engendered a new and vaster phase both of general and military policy, especially as regards other colonising Powers, and necessitated special measures in view of the increase not only of the possible causes of conflict between France and those Powers, but also of the number of points which, under given circumstances, might be open to attack.

Thus, not only is the higher expenditure during the year 1899 accounted for but, possibly, a somewhat similar rate for 1900

foreshadowed. It may, however, be noted that the question of actual means of defence, as far as bodies of colonial troops (with the exception of Indo-China) is concerned, seems to be still under consideration.

The reporter observes that, as a rule, both the local revenue **Trade.** and the trade of the various colonies have increased steadily, but that the situation in West Africa and Indo-China shows the most marked improvement. As regards trade he cites two cases in point:—Senegal, whose total trade movement has progressed in value from 50,000,000 fr. (2,000,000*l.*) in 1897 to 62,000,000 fr. (2,480,000*l.*) in 1898, and Cochin-China and Cambodia, whose combined trade has increased by about 25,000,000*l.*, or, roughly 16 per cent. during the same period.

Some interesting figures bearing upon French colonial trade in general and its results are quoted. It would appear that, during the 12 years from 1886 to 1897 inclusive, its total value reached, in round numbers, 5,379,000,000 fr. (215,000,000*l.*) about equally divided between imports and exports. The whole share of French trade, import and export, in the above sum amounted to 2,242,000,000 fr. (89,700,000*l.*), as against 3,000,000,000 fr. (120,000,000*l.*) for the trade of foreign countries, the remainder representing the value of inter-colonial commerce. The reporter remarks that on estimating the profits of French merchants and manufacturers at 20 per cent. on the value of the mother-country's exchanges with her colonies, it will be found that their gains have amounted to 450,000,000 fr. (18,000,000*l.*), which is still far from the 1,000,000,000 fr. (40,000,000*l.*) expended during the same period. Nevertheless, other advantages have undoubtedly accrued from the possession of a Colonial Empire, which, though so easy of calculation would make up for a great deal of this excess of expenditure.

TOTAL Expenditure for  
MILITARY AND

Colonies.	1885.	1886.
	Francs.	Francs.
Martinique .. .. .	2,375,865	2,187,202
Guadeloupe .. .. .	2,169,597	2,118,254
Réunion .. .. .	2,345,748	2,966,252
French Guiana .. .. .	3,267,462	3,265,527
Sénégal .. .. .	5,457,233	7,343,832
Sudan .. .. .	3,439,431	3,375,194
French Guinea .. .. .	..	..
Gaboon-Congo .. .. .	125,050	..
Saint-Pierre and Miquelon .. .. .	360,432	123,980
Ivory Coast .. .. .	..	351,134
Mayotte .. .. .	237,922	..
Comores .. .. .	..	218,354
Tahiti and dependencies .. .. .	804,728	823,464
New Caledonia .. .. .	7,950,787	8,059,027
French possessions in India .. .. .	543,436	540,249
Obock.—French Somaliland .. .. .	..	804,943
Dahomey .. .. .	..	..
Cochin-China .. .. .	3,238,595	3,230,613
Annam-Tonkin .. .. .	615,000	615,000
Diégo-Suarez .. .. .	..	..
Sainte-Marie .. .. .	35,000	35,000
Nossi-Bé .. .. .	302,174	285,086
Madagascar .. .. .	..	..
Common expenditure .. .. .	1,447,290	1,426,184
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>34,714,805</b>	<b>37,794,325</b>
Obock—		
Vote of August 12, 1885 .. .. .	624,720	..
Madagascar—		
Vote of August 5, 1885 .. .. .	12,190,000	..
„ July 29, 1887 .. .. .	..	..
„ July 26, 1888 .. .. .	..	..
„ December 7, 1894 .. .. .	..	..
„ December 8, 1895 .. .. .	..	..
Annam-Tonkin—		
Vote of December 12, 1884 (43,422,000) .. .. .	200,000,000	..
„ April 1 and April 8, 1885 .. .. .	..	..
„ March 29, 1892.—Supplementary vote .. .. .	..	..
Dahomey—		
Vote of April 16, 1892 .. .. .	..	..
„ March 30, 1893 .. .. .	..	..
„ July 23, 1893 .. .. .	..	..
Siam Expedition—		
Vote of January 8, 1897 .. .. .	..	..
<b>Grand total .. .. .</b>	<b>247,529,525</b>	<b>37,794,325</b>



TOTAL Expenditure for Colonial  
MILITARY AND CIVIL

Colonies.	1892.	1893.	1894.
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Martinique .. .. .	2,330,865	2,464,889	2,517,848
Guadeloupe .. .. .	1,533,331	1,586,907	1,587,322
Réunion .. .. .	4,447,179	4,538,672	4,356,727
French Guiana .. .. .	5,995,499	5,846,187	5,854,473
Sénégal .. .. .	6,073,913	6,116,371	6,187,513
Sudan .. .. .	5,189,622	5,719,622	6,219,622
French Guinea .. .. .	38,500	33,675	33,675
Gaboon-Congo .. .. .	1,507,267	1,494,417	1,887,270
Saint-Pierre and Miquelon .. .. .	261,183	274,334	291,800
Ivory Coast .. .. .	..	..	..
Mayotte .. .. .	98,209	97,099	97,195
Comores .. .. .	15,128	..	..
Tahiti and dependencies .. .. .	830,429	821,599	868,552
New Caledonia .. .. .	8,223,997	8,141,688	8,154,632
French possessions in India .. .. .	313,835	330,596	331,764
Obock.—French Somaliland .. .. .	572,642	604,472	660,300
Dahomey .. .. .	900,000	900,000	900,000
Cochin-China .. .. .	3,158,332	3,199,439	3,166,326
Annam-Tonkin .. .. .	24,450,000	24,450,000	24,450,000
Diégo-Suarez .. .. .	2,066,298	2,252,695	2,245,728
Sainte-Marie .. .. .	35,000	35,000	35,000
Nossi-Bé .. .. .	74,000	72,010	72,106
Madagascar .. .. .	..	..	..
Common expenditure .. .. .	3,044,898	3,607,463	3,980,502
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>71,160,117</b>	<b>72,586,635</b>	<b>73,845,355</b>
Obock—			
Vote of August 12, 1885 .. .. .	..	..	..
Madagascar—			
Vote of August 5, 1885 .. .. .	..	..	..
„ July 29, 1887 .. .. .	..	..	..
„ July 26, 1888 .. .. .	..	..	..
„ December 7, 1894 .. .. .	..	..	65,000,000
„ December 8, 1895 .. .. .	..	..	..
Annam-Tonkin—			
Vote of December 12, 1884 (43,422,000) .. .. .	..	..	..
Vote of April 1 and April 8, 1885 .. .. .	..	..	..
Vote of March 29, 1892.—Supple- mentary vote .. .. .	12,000,000	..	..
Dahomey—			
Vote of April 16, 1892 .. .. .	3,000,000	..	..
„ March 30, 1893 .. .. .	..	6,230,000	..
„ July 28, 1893 .. .. .	..	7,000,000	..
Siam Expedition—			
Vote of January 8, 1897 .. .. .	..	..	..
<b>Grand total .. .. .</b>	<b>86,160,117</b>	<b>85,816,635</b>	<b>138,843,855</b>

## Purposes, 1885-98—continued.

## EXPENSES—continued.

1886.	1886.	1897.	1898.	Total per Colony.
Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
2,762,766	2,496,569	2,538,161	2,657,448	32,782,162
1,683,310	1,649,493	1,522,729	1,653,709	24,901,933
4,402,813	4,411,937	4,215,251	4,472,591	54,891,950
6,070,234	6,039,104	5,815,623	6,329,810	74,652,340
6,238,033	6,209,326	5,950,674	6,047,618	86,468,847
9,000,000	8,450,000	7,080,000	6,948,000	72,499,320
33,675	30,000	300,000	303,809	805,334
1,890,061	2,657,721	2,554,060	2,515,253	23,649,880
286,211	282,599	271,953	289,442	4,301,576
..	210,310	..	..	210,310
96,105	79,845	44,845	44,845	1,771,295
..	..	..	..	243,578
903,969	882,874	822,019	871,416	11,813,066
8,322,758	7,909,971	8,895,365	7,408,853	111,006,263
338,906	339,943	320,574	308,073	5,607,569
827,950	605,471	614,807	614,807	7,301,070
900,000	..	..	..	3,600,000
3,273,062	3,304,368	3,083,686	3,064,741	43,782,074
25,550,000	25,830,000	25,090,000	23,700,000	234,315,000
2,220,423	185,973	..	..	14,050,509
35,000	20,000	..	..	405,000
71,175	61,033	24,233	..	1,711,171
..	2,004,536	11,850,000	20,080,000	34,934,536
4,435,480	4,039,648	3,991,860	4,324,110	40,369,732
79,840,021	77,720,721	83,874,840	91,633,534	885,580,015
..	..	..	..	851,301,888
..	..	{ 485,000(a) 1,400,000(b) }	..	
..	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	
17,932,000	..	..	..	
..	..	16,660,000*	2,440,000†	
..	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	1,236,881,403
..	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	
..	..	4,800,000	..	
97,272,021	77,720,721	107,219,840	94,073,534	1,236,881,403

\* Vote of March 5, 1898.

† Vote of July 22, 1898, Madagascar.

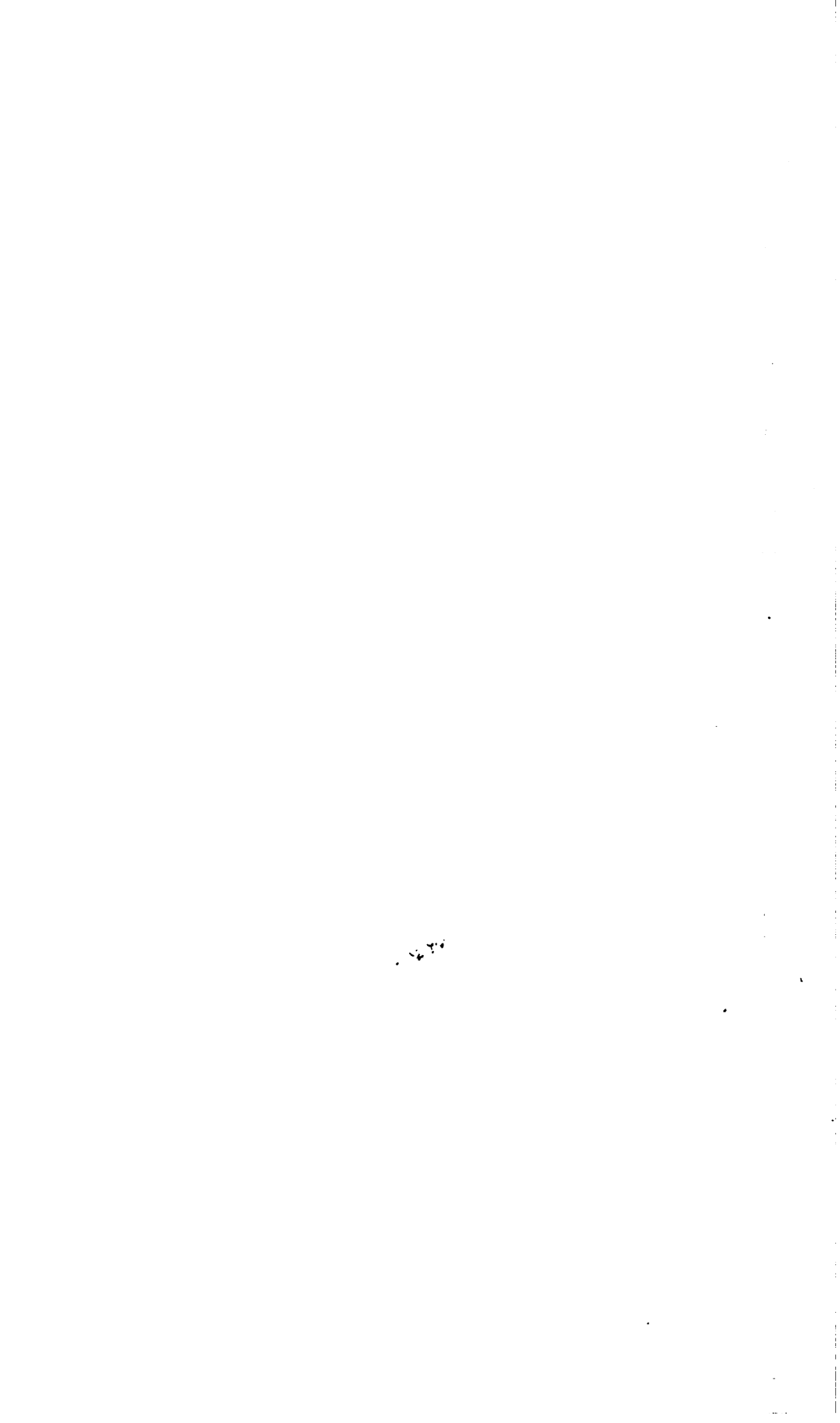


## TOTAL Expenditure for Colonial Purposes, 1885-98—continued.

## MILITARY AND CIVIL EXPENSES—continued.

Colonies.	Total Amounts Contributed by Colonies to Home Expenditure, 1885-98.	Excess of Expenditure.	Excess of Receipts from Colonies.
	France.	France.	France.
Martinique .. .. .	411,000	32,371,162	..
Guadeloupe .. .. .	453,960	24,447,973	..
Réunion .. .. .	279,000	54,612,950	..
French Guiana .. .. .	2,100,000	72,552,340	..
Sénégal .. .. .	153,120	86,315,227	..
Sudan .. .. .	..	72,499,320	..
French Guinea .. .. .	6,000	799,334	..
Gaboon-Congo .. .. .	22,000	23,627,880	..
Saint-Pierre and Miquelon..	52,400	4,249,176	..
Ivory Coast .. .. .	5,000	205,310	..
Mayotte .. .. .	7,300	1,763,995	..
Comores .. .. .	..	243,578	..
Tahiti and dependencies ..	131,440	11,181,626	..
New Caledonia .. .. .	2,008,800	108,997,463	..
French possessions in India	11,510,040	..	5,902,471
Obock.—French Somaliland	1,200	7,299,874	..
Dahomey .. .. .	6,000	3,694,000	..
Cochin-China .. .. .	57,850,000	..	14,067,930
Annam-Tonkin .. .. .	570,000	233,745,000	..
Diégo-Suarez.. .. .	3,000	14,053,509	..
Sainte-Marie .. .. .	..	405,000	..
Nossi-Bé .. .. .	4,500	1,706,671	..
Madagascar .. .. .	..	34,934,536	..
Common expenditure .. ..	..	40,369,732	..
Total .. .. .	75,574,760	829,975,656	19,970,401
Obock—			
Vote of August 12, 1885..	..		
Madagascar—			
Vote of August 5, 1885 ..	..		
" July 29, 1887 .. ..	..		
" July 26, 1888 .. ..	..		
" December 7, 1894 ..	..		
" December 8, 1895 ..	..		
Annam-Tonkin—			
Vote of December 12, 1884	..	351,301,388	..
(43,422,000) .. .. .	..		
Vote of April 1 and April 8, 1885	..		
Vote of March 29, 1892.—Sup-	..		
plementary vote .. .. .	..		
Dahomey—			
Vote of April 16, 1892 ..	..		
" March 30, 1893 .. ..	..		
" July 28, 1893 .. ..	..		
Siam Expedition—			
Vote of January 8, 1897..	..		
Grand total .. .. .	75,574,760	1,181,277,044	19,970,401
Total excess of expenditure ..	..	1,161,306,643	
Equivalent in sterling £	..	45,992,242	





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